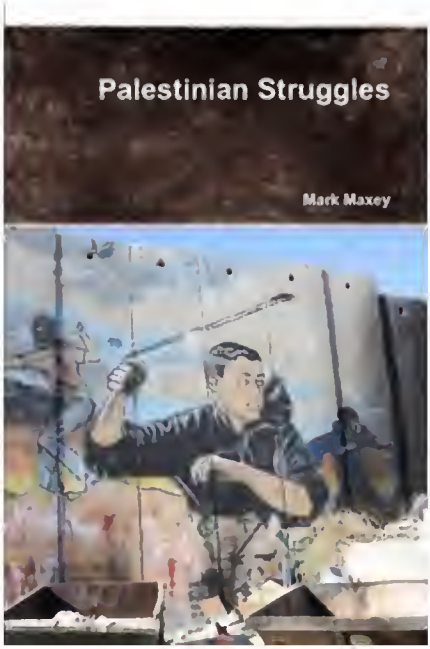
Worn Out American Dream



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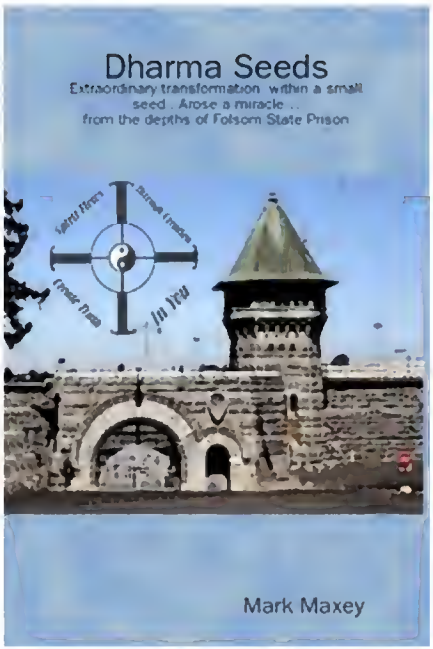

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Worn Out American Dream

Mark Maxey

St. Raphael's Holy Orthodox Catholic Church & Monastery
2017

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Dedication

I dedicate this book to the warriors and protectors of truth: Communist Party USA, Our Revolution, Black Lives Matter, American Indian Movement, SURJ, Occupy, IWW, IWOC, Immigrants Defense Fund, Witness.org, and all working class grassroots movements. You are the true RESISTANCE!

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To Earchiel Johnson your friendship is amazing as when we first met at the People's Summit. Two Okies in Chicago, which is now forever changed! To Barbara Russum who adds so much to the process and works behind the scenes making us all look literate!

To Billy Hinton, Cameron Dyer, Lyndell Byrd, who helps me shape my thoughts and gives me so much background on subjects we discuss. You three have shaped how I've grown as a progressive writer. Chapter 10 is taken directly from our many various discussions. They spoke this chapter into existence for me.

To Amy Hinton for creative ideas with photos. You are amazing!

Last but not least, my loving sister, Marissa Lane. You've always been there next to me always encouraging me. You've been my beacon numerous times while I've been sailing upon life's stormy seas. You are the best!

Preface

I began to notice a shift in our society during the Bernie Sanders campaign. In the late winter of 2015, I joined the national Data Team. Working along with many other volunteers, we processed all the campaign data. I saw first hand the volumes of people identifying with Bernie's message.

This surge or reawakening was simply a thirty-year journey for Bernie. His message has been the same for over thirty years. Inside the root core of his message are the echoes of Karl Marx, Frederick Engels. Within the body of Bernie's message is a democratic socialism. So Bernie's true message lies at the feet of generations of philosophers working towards a perfect governing system.

If the word socialism is uncomfortable for you; then you need to read John Nichols book, The S Word.[1] American history is full of "S" word examples, successfully executed by our nation.

Yet the more I study and reread classic literature, I honestly believe the answer is not in a governing body per se. I really think as Marx and Engels envisioned is a working-class movement rising up. The answer isn't a charismatic leader but a charismatic worker joining other workers. We hold our own dream within our grasp.

I encourage you to read this book with an open mind. Expand your knowledge by researching my references and links. Let yourself chew on these concepts and see if you are part of the rising up working class. The future is always ours. Yet is that future because we rose up against our oppressors. Or silently not responding the future is reversed. Don't let our oppressors keep us down! Rise up!

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[1] https://www.amazon.com/Word-History-American-Tradition-Socialism/dp/1784783404/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1503481078&sr=8-1&keywords=The+S+Word

Introduction

Lyrics for Worn Out American Dream by Jimmy LaFave [2]

I see no refuge for the weary; I see no handouts for the poor;
I see no sense of satisfaction. On all the ones who just endure.
All the slings and arrows slandered; against the face of the poor man's dream. Where the rich circle in like vultures; picking all their pockets clean. Don't you give me your phony smile; don't you tell me no more rules. How many people will you trample down before you're finally through? Come on face the situation; all the sadness that it brings.
Got me lost inside the shuffle of a worn out American dream.

Give me no more TV preachers; give me no more racist attitudes. Politicians, politicians, I've got nothing left for you. I'm within my global vision. You see, my feelings are my own. The Good Book says the days are numbered; so I'm turning towards my home. Take away your evil money; I won't join in your game. To myself I will be true. To myself I will remain. Come on face your situation; It's just as desperate as it seems. You got us lost inside the shuffle of your worn out American dream.

I see no refuge for the weary; I see no handouts for the poor. I see no sense of satisfaction; On all the ones who must endure. All the slings and arrows slandered; Against the face of the poor man's dream. All the rich circle in like vultures; Picking every pocket clean. Don't you give me your phony smile. Don't you tell me one more rule. How many lambs must you slaughter before you're finally through? Come on, face the situation and all the sadness that it brings. You've got us lost inside the shuffle of your worn out American dream. You've got me caught up in the madness of your worn out American dream. You've got me lost inside the sadness of your worn out American dream

[2] https://youtu.be/tDJRrUXB_Io?list=FLCZiM7ZsOJLk0PiiKb3QS6Q

Chapter 1: Are You Worn Out?

The America I knew, back in the late sixties and early seventies is not the America of today. "The change took place in the 1970s. There are a lot of reasons for it," Noam Chomsky says. "One of the underlying factors, discussed mainly by economic historian Robert Brenner, was the falling rate of profit in manufacturing. There were other factors. It led to major changes in the economy — a reversal of several hundred years of progress towards industrialization and development that turned into a process of de-industrialization and de-development. Of course, manufacturing production continued overseas very profitably, but it's no good for the work force."[3]

Many of my peers nowhere comes close to where their parents were financially at the same age. The economy has depleted their savings, no retirement funds. No vacation or weekend getaway property. Today's Generation X and the Millennials are faced with a stark reality of being broke. It was in the 1970's when Milton Friedman's economic plan was put into place by the extreme fascist right-wing. This is the context I use fascism. Benito **Mussolini** consolidated control over the Fascist movement in 1919 with the founding of the Fasci italiani di combattimento, whose opposition to socialism he declared: We declare war against socialism, not because it is socialism, but because it has opposed nationalism."[4] "But Friedman was more than an academic. He was an advocate for, and popularizer of, a radical right-wing economic ideology," Bernie Sander said. [5] Fascism further means a governmental system led by a dictator having complete power, forcibly suppressing opposition and criticism, regimenting all industry, commerce, etc., and emphasizing an aggressive nationalism and often racism. Does this sound familiar? "With

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[3] A Rebellious World or a New Dark Age?, Noam Chomsky, 2012, www.closingthegap.org.nz/noam-chomsky-and-amazing-article-on-inequality/

[4] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fascism

[5] The Failed Prophet, Bernie Sanders, 2009, http://inthesetimes.com/article/4193/the_failed_prophet

all due respect to the late Milton Friedman, his economic program is nothing more than a wish list for the greediest, the most monied interests in our society. At the same time that this ideology is supported by the rich and powerful–except when they're lining up in Washington for their welfare checks–this same ideology is almost unanimously opposed to working families and middle-class people across this country."

The Republican right wing establishment has been dismantling our American dream. This has been going on for over forty years. Cold calculated robbing the working class of any opportunities. All the while lining their pockets from their corporate sponsors. Representing the corporations, capitalists, and not the citizens, the workers. Neither parties are the answer. It will have to be something new.

The lyrics from Jimmy Lafave poignantly says it best, a worn out American dream. The changes to corporate America has caused this nightmare. Union busting tactics is another nightmare. The conglomeration of big business has caused it too[6]. Toss in offshore accounts and overseas industrialization is a culprit too. Loss of jobs, reduced pay and diminishing benefits has decimated the working class. When the top Ten companies represent the retail market[7], I can tell you the workers don't share in the profits.

Irene Caesar, Socialist Factor, says[8], "80% of US food supply is GMO (Genetically Modified Organisms). GMO causes all kinds of degenerative diseases, like cancer, and infertility in the third generation. As the result, United States has entered the stage of total generic collapse, which concerns all living beings — humans, animals, insects and plants.[9] Our food and how it is produced has changed. Seed companies seek profit over quality or ecological needs. Greed has replaced consciously produced products."

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[6] Forbes Top 500 World Companies, http://fortune.com/global500/list/

[7] www.static4.businessinsider.com/image/57ebc2d7077dcc0f208b7830/these-10-companies-control-everything-you-buy.jpg

[8] http://socialistfactor.in/2017/08/12/in-defense-of-socialism/

[9] http://socialistfactor.in/2017/08/12/in-defense-of-socialism/

This changing topographical landscape is what has driven this worn out American dream. But it can change. History shows this. Society as a whole, the working class must choose to change. What can bring this about? How can groups unite to bring about a revolution? I think many groups, grassroots leftist groups uniting is stronger as a sum than individually. Collective input on any issue can be changed by a group.

Chapter 2: Wage Inequality

Michael Yates, in Monthly Review said, "Wages have changed considerably along with the cost of living in the past forty years. Others are not so fortunate. In 2010, more than 7 million people had incomes less than 50 percent of the official poverty level of income, an amount equal to $11,245, which in hourly terms (2,000 hours of work per year) is $5.62. About one-quarter of all jobs in the United States pay an hourly wage rate that would not support a family of four at the official poverty level of income."[10]

Michael D. Yates[11] wrote for Monthly Review: It is by now well known that significant and growing economic inequality is a central feature of the U.S. economy, as previous articles in *Monthly Review* have shown.[12] However, the same is also the case for much of the rest of the world. Inequality arises in other countries for reasons similar to those in the United States, but each nation has its own history, along with widely divergent economic and political structures.

[10] https://monthlyreview.org/2012/03/01/the-great-inequality/
[11] https://monthlyreview.org/2016/11/01/measuring-global-inequality/
[12] https://monthlyreview.org/2016/11/01/measuring-global-inequality/#en1

Table 1. Wealth Inequality, 2014

	Developed Economies	Emerging Economies
Very high inequality Top decile share > 70% (e.g., USA c. 1910)	Hong Kong Switzerland United States	Argentina Peru Brazil Philippines Egypt Russia India South Africa Indonesia Thailand Malaysia Turkey
High inequality	Austria Israel Denmark Norway	Chile Mexico China Poland

Top decile share > 60% (e.g., USA c. 1950)	Germany Sweden	Colombia Saudi Arabia Czech Republic Taiwan Korea
Medium inequality Top decile share > 50% (e.g., Europe c. 1980)	Australia Netherlands Canada New Zealand Finland Portugal France Singapore Greece Spain Ireland United Kingdom Italy	United Arab Emirates

Low inequality		
Top decile share < 50%	Belgium	Japan

Source: Credit Suisse, Global Wealth Databook 2014, October 2014, 124, http://publications.credit-suisse.com.

Trends in wealth inequality vary, but since the Great Recession, they have shown more increases than decreases in the world's nations.

Chart 2. Increase in Income Share of Top 1% Since 1980

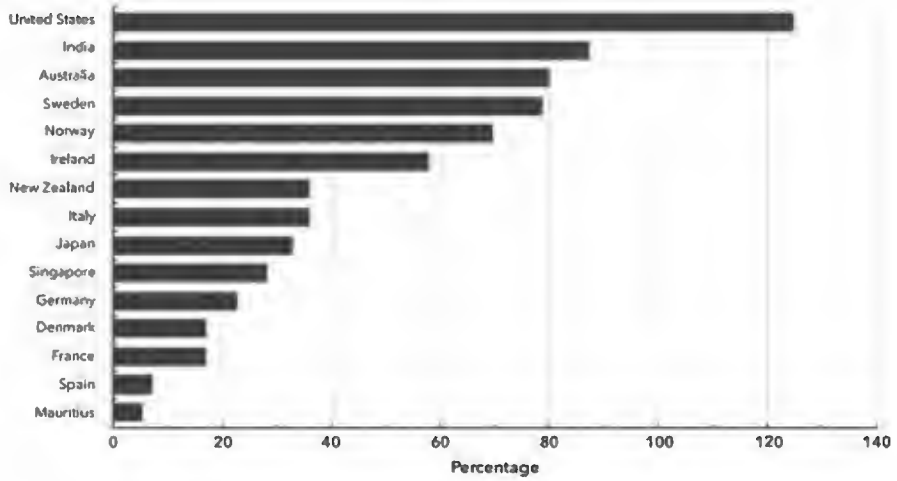
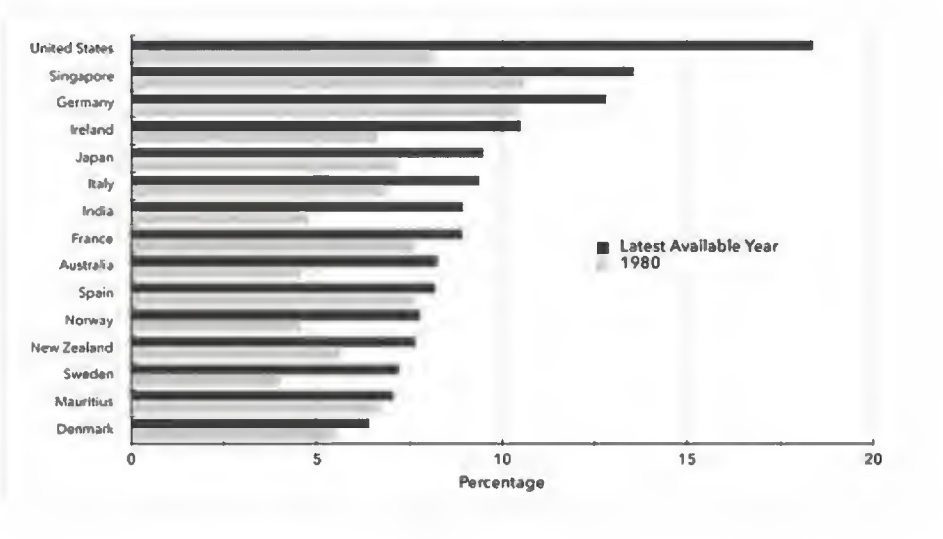


Chart 3. Share of National Income Going to Richest 1%



Source: Figures for Charts 2 and 3 were taken from Facundo Alvaredo et al., "World Wealth and Income Database," World Inequality Lab, http://wid.world, accessed October 2016. The charts were inspired by Figure 1 in the Oxfam working paper, "Working for the Few," January 2014.

In contrast, it is easy to see corporatists have increased since 1980's. A sharp downward spiral almost to a death rattle has the working class become. These graphs and charts should be utterly shocking to you. It doesn't get more insightful than this. Simply the greedy corporatists have been getting greedier for the past forty-seven years. Behind it, all are mostly Republicans. Yet this issue goes well beyond the issue of political parties. The workplace model has shifted and reflects a CEO as being narcissistic. Instead of recognizing the needs of the workers they focus on the bottom line to increase their profits. With no moral compass. It's all about profits with no understanding of the depletion of natural resources.

"The economic boom of the 1990s created huge wealth for the bosses but benefitted workers hardly at all. At the same time, the bosses were able to take the political initiative and even the moral high ground,

while workers were often divided against each other."[13] One should "name the system" - "and that system establishes that the working-class does not aid in the wealth they produce. The growing inequality both globally and in the United States is the direct correlation to capitalism." Capitalism, unwatched, will always yield such an outcome. Yates goes on to illustrate, "(the)necessary consequence of capitalism, and not an unfortunate side-effect that can be remedied by technical measures. To defend working people against ongoing attacks—on their working conditions, their living standards, and their future and that of their children—and to challenge inequality, it is necessary to understand capitalism as a system and for labor to challenge the political dominance of capitalist interests."[14]

Chuck Collins[15], in Yes magazine, reported that across the country, local jurisdictions aren't waiting for federal action or corporate governance reforms to close the wage gap. In December, for example, the city of Portland, Oregon, passed an ordinance to raise the business tax on companies with CEOs who earn more than 100 times the median pay of their workers. Portland officials said the ordinance is the first of its kind in the country. And now, more cities and states are poised to follow suit.

"The huge divide in income and wealth has real-world implications," Steve Novick wrote last October[16] in Inequality.org. Novick sponsored the ordinance when he was on the Portland City Council. "Too many Americans cannot get a leg up," he wrote. "Income inequality undermines the American dream."

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[13] https://monthlyreview.org/product/naming_the_system/

[14] https://monthlyreview.org/product/naming_the_system/

[15] http://www.yesmagazine.org/new-economy/ceos-now-make-300-times-more-than-their-workers-this-city-is-putting-a-stop-to-that-20170407

[16] http://inequality.org/city-cutting-edge-ceo-pay-reform/

In These Times magazine in 2015 ran an article on Five Ways To Reduce Inequality.[17] Quite simply we, the working-class, must hold corporations responsible. Amy Domini and Sofia Faruqi[18] reported, "Not so long ago, business leaders believed that corporations should serve[19] not only shareholders but also employees and the community. This mission narrowed in the 1990s to a single-minded focus[20] on shareholder return. A white paper by James Montier[21] explains how the simplified purpose has created vast income inequality. Average CEO compensation has soared to 300 times higher[22] than worker pay, and companies have become quick to increase profit by downsizing."

In the early days of our republic, corporations were incorporated with an expiration date. They also had to serve the public good. The local community and state also restricted a number of local resources the corporations could use. It was a socially responsible model. It is a model we should get back to in order to turn around this wage inequality. It also places the local resources into the hands of the local working-class.

Wallace Hopp in May 2017 said in, In These Times[23]:

> Let us consider two important ways income inequality undermines the economy: (1) by diminishing worker motivation and (2) by reducing the velocity of money.
>
> The demotivating impact of income inequality occurs when workers see the gains of productivity going almost entirely to

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17 http://inthesetimes.com/article/17847/5-ways-to-reduce-inequality-by-holding-corporations-responsible

18 http://inthesetimes.com/community/profile/322226

19 http://www.salon.com/2012/04/04/the_shareholder_fallacy/

20 http://www.cg.org.cn/theory/zlyz/roundtable.pdf

21 https://www.gmo.com/America/CMSAttachmentDownload.aspx?target=JUBRxi51IIBoe1yul9uERnfCmQoglFl9k5qwJSfHx8w%2fWCnFLmEb2MC9GoFnZVlslR5NzCRY1ajgn503icBv67VQg%2fNVUMWsYvi3A2%2fL%2bS28A7Pthjp7LmOfLYQfHMJc

22 http://www.epi.org/publication/ceo-pay-continues-to-rise/

23 https://inthesetimes.com/rural-america/entry/20109/corporate-power-stagnant-wages-income-inequality-frog-and-scorpion-parable

executives. Since 1973, productivity has increased[24] by over 73 percent, while (inflation-adjusted) hourly worker pay has risen by only about 11 percent and CEO compensation has soared[25] by 1,000 percent.

Who can blame people for being reluctant to work harder when they know the proceeds will go to someone else? Extensive behavioral research[26] has shown that people will forego personal gain to prevent outcomes they perceive as unfair. In work settings, this leads to demotivated workers working below their potential, even when it leads to smaller raises or bonuses. The result is reduced productivity, lower quality, and less creativity, all of which undermine corporate profit and economic growth.

Another way[27] inequality affects the economy is by reducing the velocity of money by shifting cash[28] to people who spend it more slowly. Working-class people who are stretching to make ends meet spend their income quickly—usually pretty much all of it— while wealthy people whose resources exceed their immediate needs tend to save substantial portions[29] of their income.

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[24] http://www.epi.org/productivity-pay-gap/

[25] http://www.epi.org/publication/top-ceos-make-300-times-more-than-workers-pay-growth-surpasses-market-gains-and-the-rest-of-the-0-1-percent/

[26] http://www.psychologicalscience.org/index.php/news/releases/are-humans-hardwired-for-fairness.html

[27] http://www.usnews.com/opinion/blogs/economic-intelligence/2013/09/12/record-high-income-inequality-threatens-us-growth

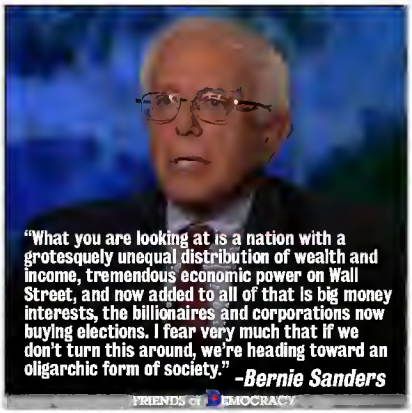
[28] http://www.dal.ca/content/dam/dalhousie/pdf/faculty/science/economics/seminars/Alvarez-Cuadrado%20SavingInequalityLast.pdf

[29] https://www.dartmouth.edu/~jskinner/documents/DynanKEDotheRich.pdf

Consequently, whenever a company takes a dollar out of the hands of a worker and puts it into the hands of an executive or investor, the number of times that dollar will be spent in the economy is reduced. The result is less business for capitalists and less employment for workers.

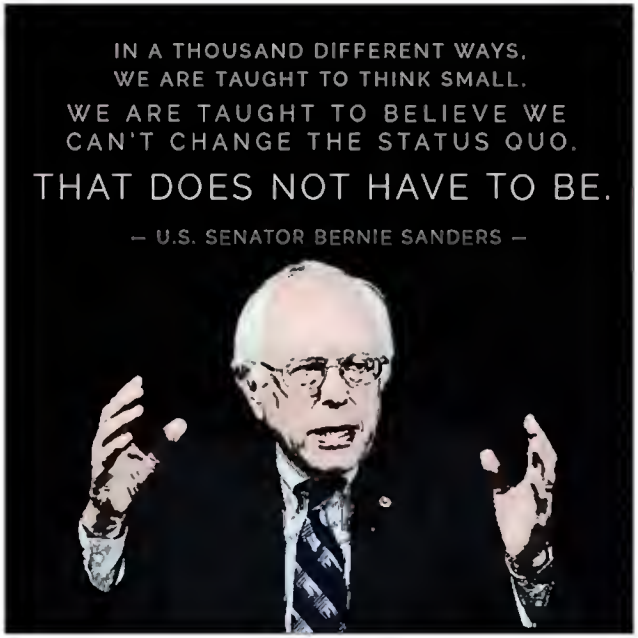
These two observations imply that policies that decrease income inequality also bolster the economy[30]. Since this benefits both rich and poor, such policies offer opportunities for the rich, and the businesses they control, to be part of the solution[31] rather than part of the problem of income inequality.

Bill Moyer even agrees that wage inequality threatens our core democracy.[32] During the Great Recession, between 2007 and 2009, the unemployment rate grew to its highest level in 25 years. With many Americans losing their jobs, the number of low-income families grew to 10 million in 2009, a quarter million increase from the previous year. The findings come as income inequality continues to grow, a grim reminder of how many working families are struggling to pay the bills with stagnant wages. Since the recession, more working-class families are in poverty than ever before.[33]



[30] http://voxeu.org/article/effects-income-inequality-economic-growth
[31] http://www.the-crises.com/income-inequality-in-the-us-1/
[32] http://inthesetimes.com/article/19452/we-the-plutocrats-vs.-we-the-people
[33] http://inthesetimes.com/working/entry/6793/since_great_recession_more_working_families_in_poverty/

According to new data from the Economic Policy Institute:
SINCE 1978 CEO PAY IS
725%
While other workers' pay only increased
5.7%
American income inequality has grown worse than it is in countries like Pakistan and Ivory Coast..


IN A THOUSAND DIFFERENT WAYS,
WE ARE TAUGHT TO THINK SMALL.
WE ARE TAUGHT TO BELIEVE WE
CAN'T CHANGE THE STATUS QUO.
THAT DOES NOT HAVE TO BE.
— U.S. SENATOR BERNIE SANDERS —

Chapter 3: When States Are Against You

When Oklahoma Gov. Mary Fallin signed HB 1124[34] into law in May 2017 it was yet another strike against Native Americans and the entire nationwide working class of which they are a part – a strike against the 99 percent.

At heart is the Plains All American Pipeline which has been protested[35] several times in Norman, Oklahoma.The law is designed to harshly penalize protesters. The protest movement uses hashtag #NoPlainsPipeline to document their concerns.

Oklahoma's law is just another part of a trend toward punitive legislation directed towards grassroots protesters. It clearly denies first amendment rights.

This year alone anti-protest legislation was introduced in over 20 states[36]. In Oklahoma, reports reflect that the fossil fuel industry has donated over half a million dollars[37] to state legislators. ALEC[38] (the American Legislative Exchange Council), the notorious right-wing think tank, is reportedly behind these anti-protest legislative initiatives.

Members of several federally recognized Oklahoma tribes will be impacted by the project. That list includes the Absentee Shawnee, Citizen Potawatomi, Kickapoo, Sac and Fox, and Chickasaw nations. Some tribal members have pointed out that Plains All American failed to consult their tribal councils, which they note is a violation of federal law. A June 3 press

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[34] http://www.oklegislature.gov/BillInfo.aspx?Bill=HB1123&Session=1700

[35] http://www.normantranscript.com/news/government/groups-join-to-protest-oil-pipeline-at-norman-s-city/article_e61a87e2-db76-56f6-a284-175d3b39da35.html

[36] https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/may/08/donald-trump-anti-protest-bills

[37] http://oklahomawatch.org/2017/05/23/oil-and-gas-donations-to-legislators/

[38] https://www.nlg.org/new-anti-protesting-legislation-a-deeper-look/

release[39] states that sacred tobacco has been planted along the trail of the proposed pipeline.

Ashley McCray[40], founder of #NoPlainsPipeline and an Oklahoma University graduate student, and Absentee Shawnee member says, “The people who have to live with that land and rely on those water sources will be the most impacted,” McCray said. “We know with each of these pipeline companies and projects that the people who are most directly impacted are Black people, are Indigenous people and are poor white farmers. This is a case of environmental racism.

“Water is life,” she said[41]. “Everyone needs water to drink. Beyond that, resource extraction is rape of the earth. As an indigenous woman, I feel a strong connection to the earth. We’re both givers and sustainers of life. It’s important for me to protect her because she sustains me.”

The Absentee Shawnee[42] tribe mailed a letter to all tribal members outlining how the tribe would be impacted. In the letter they say, “Increasingly, tribes across this nation are faced with environmental concerns as the oil and gas industry’s processes for extracting and moving oil and natural gas are directly affecting the wellbeing of both the environment and the tribal people who live in those communities.”

“In Oklahoma, there has been a major increase in earthquakes and some scientists attribute this to oil and gas hydraulic fracking procedures during the drilling process. The letter also brings up the potential impact of the fracking wastewater. The underground water tables

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[39] https://t.co/PqXHr5tZXT

[40] http://www.oudaily.com/news/activist-groups-announce-resistance-to-plains-all-american-pipeline/article_d09f1cfa-e744-11e6-90e7-77732b77e350.html

[41] http://www.normantranscript.com/news/local_news/no-plains-pipeline-works-to-turn-education-into-action/article_089db271-ee33-5be3-be07-393f88691c29.html

[42] http://www.astribe.com/astribe/resources/pdf/newsletter/ASTNews_Letter_IncreasingEnvironmentalConcernsforTribalCommunities.pdf

contain, as a result of the fracking, highly caustic chemicals. used in fracking.

Many of the federally recognized tribes[43] feel the pipeline is illegal due to the tribes never being properly consulted. The Nations recognize that the location of the pipeline falls within economically depressed communities that often lack financial options to even protest the pipeline.

The law would allow penalizing individual trespassers[44] a minimum $10,000 fine and upward to $100,000 or 10 years of imprisonment. Organizations found to be "conspirator" could be fined ten times as much up to $1 million in fines.

An American Indian Movement[45] (AIM) chapter in Oklahoma is actively still protesting the Plains All American Pipeline in Oklahoma. Mike Casteel, director of AIM-Indian Territory said, "We cannot sit idly by — our ancestors died along this trail, and we have many unmarked graves there," Casteel said in a media release. "We no longer accept poisoning for profit by any government or private corporation."

University of California, Berkeley's Institute for Data Science[46], finds that protest violence tends to be provoked by aggressive police tactics — not the other way around. By contrast, when police stand down, protests tend to persist, but with lower rates of arrest and a lower incidence of violence.

The individual worker and local citizens should manage the means of production for their local area. It is when local workers unite that progressive and even socialist values begin to appear in our

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43 https://boldoklahoma.webaction.org/p/dia/action3/common/public/?action_KEY=18651

44 http://webserver1.lsb.state.ok.us/cf_pdf/2017-18%20ENR/hB/HB1123%20ENR.PDF

45 http://www.muskogeephoenix.com/news/protest-scheduled-monday-over-pipeline/article_bdd3877d-5bb4-5ea1-aff3-024372886ca6.html

46 https://popularresistance.org/decriminalize-dissent/

communities. Clearly the original citizens of this area, the American Indians do not want the Plains All American Pipeline in their native area.

When our right wing legislators begin to take away our first amendment right to protest, something is very wrong with the fabric of democracy we hold so dear. It is important now than before to unite and work together for our socialist beliefs.

Stand up and resist, the time is now. Join with other leftist grassroots organizations to stop fascists. Defeating the fascist stronghold necessitates uniting together with other leftist groups to show a strong solidarity while still building a strong communist party.

Propaganda is not new, it's used by all for their own gain. However, when capitalists[47] use it the workers are sure to lose. A new technique is not only unethical but could impede upon the next generation. Such is the case with the oil and gas industry in Oklahoma.

Recently, State Impact Oklahoma[48] and Center for Public Integrity[49] published a report detailing the oil and gas industry have injected $40-million worth of propaganda into Oklahoma classroom education.

This propaganda is in part a means to indoctrinate Oklahoma's youth about the "great" things the fossil fuel industry has provided society. What is conveniently removed is the environmental destruction, pollution, and war this industry really provides.

In the book, Petro Pete's Big Bad Dream[50] a fable is shared from a young boys nightmare of life without the by-products from the oil and gas

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[47] https://www.reddit.com/r/socialism/comments/1obmnv/what_are_the_biggest_forms_of_capitalist/

[48] https://stateimpact.npr.org/oklahoma/2017/06/15/oils-pipeline-to-americas-schools/

[49] https://apps.publicintegrity.org/oil-education/

[50] http://oerbhomeroom.com/ebooks/

industry. Again the industry was able to push this bourgeoisie propaganda with the Oklahoma legislators bought [51]and paid by the fossil fuel industry. In Ohio,[52] teachers show how to frack using Twinkies[53]. As well the fossil fuel industry advises on the curriculum around shale drilling for a charter school[54]. The bourgeoisie propaganda extends towards a national program[55] to play down climate change issues.

Years of reviewing documents by the Center for Public Integrity sheds light on a network of organizations working hand in hand with oil and gas industry for materials for classrooms in America. Yale Program on Climate Change Communication[56], Anthony Leiserowitz[57], says, You're exploiting that trusted relationship between the student and the teacher." Leiserowitz academic vita has focused on politics, psychology, and culture impact public perception of our environment. Of course, the bourgeois oil and gas interests want to paint a picture for future generations reliance on oil.

One way we, as Marxists, can combat this gross agenda is through agitation[58]. A letter to the editor calls to action, to attending climate protection organizations to talk about this. All and many different actions by us can help turn this tide. We can't be silent, we can't be still. Agitation is movement. Now is the time in this fascist tide to be actively combating bourgeoisie propaganda.

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[51] http://oklahomawatch.org/2017/05/23/oil-and-gas-donations-to-legislators/
[52] http://oogeep.org/
[53] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O8hTBSC2Z1E
[54] http://www.uticashaleschool.com/
[55] http://www.need.org/
[56] http://climatecommunication.yale.edu/
[57] http://environment.yale.edu/profile/leiserowitz/
[58] https://www.marxists.org/history/erol/ncm-8/rcp-agit-prop.htm

Chapter 4: Give Me Religion Or…

Marxism is not about atheism, Chairman Gus Hall[59] was famous for saying, "Our quarrel is with capitalism, not God." Karl Marx was absolute in opposing oppression and not religion. However, a true Marxist is about the worker and their rights. Religion should not necessarily be a focal point in our struggles, but to each to their own. But my focus is on the oppression. Oppression keeps us struggling for our rights/dignity which keeps us from working for a more loving peaceful existence.

Each culture has their own creation mythology[60]. The Judeo-Christian beliefs are those of the tribe Israel. Yet the oldest known culture are the Sumerians[61] which pre-dates Jewish cosmology by thousands of years. Within the Sumerian cosmology are a flood, savior born, death, and resurrection. The Jewish retelling of this mythos does not negate it's possible truth but yet presents itself to their own cosmos.

Fr. Bede Griffiths, a Benedictine monk who spoke of the perennial wisdom[62]. This perspective in modern spirituality which views each of the world's religious traditions as sharing a single, metaphysical truth or origin from which all esoteric and exoteric knowledge and doctrine have grown. Fr. Bede[63] lived amongst Hindus in India and developed a synergy of Catholic and Hindu rites and spirituality. His approach was a social paradox that embraced different cultures to live communally in peace and democratic manner. Which is to say, very Marxist.

The Basic Principles of Marxism – Critique Sociale[64]

Marxism is a way of thinking critically, but it is not a "system": "I have never established a 'socialist system'", Karl Marx wrote in

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[59] http://lilleskole.us/school/abcs/religion.htmhttp://lilleskole.us/school/abcs/religion.htm

[60] http://lilleskole.us/school/abcs/religion.htm

[61] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dating_creation

[62] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Perennial_philosophy

[63] http://www.bedegriffiths.com/bede-griffiths/

[64] https://libcom.org/library/basic-principles-marxism-critique-sociale

his “Notes on Adolph Wagner’s Lehrbuch der politician Ökonomie” (1880). Marxism is the analysis of the development of the world as it is, a method that must forge an intimate connection between practice and theory.

Here are the basic principles of Marxism:

- Opposition to an economic system based on inequality and on the alienation and exploitation of the majority (by means of the system of wage labor), a system whose purpose is to obtain profits for some people rather than satisfying the needs of all. This describes capitalism, but one can obviously imagine other systems that would present similar essential characteristics, to which Marxists would be equally opposed.

For the transformation of society, Marxism considers that a revolutionary process that will lead to a society based on cooperation and the free distribution of goods and provision of services is necessary.

- “The emancipation of the workers must be the task of the workers themselves.” This is principle is inherent to real Marxism, which implies democracy and self-emancipation; it also means that democracy is the indispensable foundation for a new society (called socialism or communism). This society, liberated from the diverse forms of domination, will have to be freely constructed by its members.
- Internationalism, which is simultaneously the recognition of the common interests of the workers of the entire world and of the need to struggle on a world scale, and of the goal of abolishing nations in the transition to a human world community.
- The knowledge and analysis of History (the materialist conception of history).
- The recognition of the existence of social classes that divide men and women into distinct segments of the population; the recognition of the profound inequalities and injustices that separate these classes; and the recognition

that as long as society is divided into classes, there will be conflicts between these classes (the class struggle).

As a result, while they participate in the day-to-day class struggle of the workers, Marxists work on behalf of a reorganization of society that will put an end to this class division.

- The free exercise of the critical spirit. “Doubt everything”, Marx said; for the goal is to perceive reality as it is, in order to understand it better and thus to transform it.

These principles, or some of them, could very well be embraced by other political and social tendencies: if this is the case, then so much the better! Marxism does not attempt to isolate itself, quite the contrary: the goal is to contribute to the constitution of a movement of all of the society for the creation of “an association, in which the free development of each is the condition for the free development of all” (Karl Marx, The Communist Manifesto). Critique Sociale, March 12, 2009

That said, let’s embrace this thought. For this ideal to be realized the Marxist communists need to join hand in hand with other like minded leftists grassroots organizations. The Marxist followers alone can’t realize these goals by themselves. The current progressive organizations (Occupy, Black Lives Matter, AIM, Our Revolution, Sen. Bernie Sanders, etc…) have so much more in common. Joining together helps all of the humankind to eventually live in these Marxists parameters.

Now, hear me out, the other organizations need to also do their part in weeding out from society the neoliberalism and religious fanaticism that leads to oppression. It was oppression that Marx was against, not God. If the true nature of spiritualism, as in the perennial vein, then this nature by natural order is non oppressive. What is oppressive in religion is legalistic rhetoric which is called ideology. Ideology is ideas, and true Marxism is not about ideas but rather realistic.

Consider the source of the idea that socialism can never work[65]

[65] http://lilleskole.us/school/abcs/socializm.htm

Opponents of socialism, who also go back through the ages, say it can't work. Additionally, they say that socialism is unfair or undemocratic. It is neither, but you can see why a capitalist would say that.

Karl Marx and Frederick Engels did not waste a lot of words trying to describe the heavenly benefits of a future socialist society. They published a list of some likely features that included the idea that the main factories and instruments of production would be owned and run democratically by the people.

Any religious thought that is oppressive is not the true nature of God if one so believes in God. Using religion to disqualify Marxist goals nullifies Marx's goals. Oppression at any level denies the true freedom that an individual inherently has. So in a sense, fundamentalism is an oppressive tool to rule over a person instead of bringing out the proletariat qualities in a person.

Part of the struggle we face is relieving the oppression before us. That is realistic. We must keep struggling together. We must speak out when we see oppression of any type. Religion is a choice, but oppression of any kind is not a choice. Our goal is in liberating the oppressed.

Willis H. Truitt, in his book, ***Marxist Ethics***[66], said, "The task of socialism is not to discredit religious beliefs among the people but rather to create for all of society conditions that make religious belief unnecessary. In other words, human emancipation is the precondition for the disappearance of religion."

"Religion is the sigh of the oppressed creature, the heart of a heartless world, just as it is the spirit of spiritless conditions. It is it the opium of the people." – Karl Marx

"This quote is commonly misinterpreted because many people believe that Marx was against religion; on the contrary, he believed that religion was an outlet for people to find solace. But, in a capitalist society, religion is forced to take a different form. The capitalist system oppresses and alienates the working class which causes them to look to religion to

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[66] ***Marxist Ethics***, Willis H. Truitt, 2005, pg. 9, International Publishers Co., New York.

find solace. Marx criticizes capitalism for co-opting religion as a way to distract the working class from their exploitation. In summation, Marx is not 'against religion, but the system which requires religion'."[67] This quote ultimately expresses Marx's criticisms of capitalism.

[67] Ritzer, George. 2008. Sociological Theory. New York: McGraw-Hill Higher Education.

Chapter 5: Prison Reform

Any attempts to "fix" the correctional system can never be beneficial until the root cause is addressed. Poverty and crime[68] have an "intimate" relationship described by experts from all fields. The United Nations and the World Bank both rank crime high on the list of obstacles to a country's development. Recent reports reflect that well over half of the USA[69] citizens expenses are equal or greater than their income. Wage inequality is the one class separation the capitalists consistently works towards.

On the heels of the lies, President Trump says, one is most damning. Despite Trump's promises to punish firms that offshore American jobs, 56 percent[70] of the top companies receiving taxpayer dollars continued to send American jobs overseas. Over half of the top companies denied US workers jobs in the first 100 days of Trump's administration.
In Oklahoma[71], unemployment rates fluctuate widely.

It is no wonder why America is leading of all the countries in incarceration. Half our workers can't make ends meet, half of all potential jobs are offshore by the neoliberals and neo fascists. Union busting of the capitalists weaken the labor laws and deny worker rights. Marxists essentially see crime and deviance[72] as defined by the ruling class and used as a means of social control [73] -if you don't conform then you will be punished. Institutions like the police, the justice system, prisons and schools, the family and religion are there to encourage you to conform.

The recent prison riot in Hinton, OK reflects a growing trend in correctional settings. The riot was said to have been orchestrated by correctional staff. The riot was between the Irish Mob and United Aryan Brotherhood. Just a few weeks earlier, Oklahoma Correctional director

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[68] http://www.nationaldialoguenetwork.org/poverty-and-crime/
[69] http://money.cnn.com/2017/06/27/pf/expenses/index.html
[70] https://static1.squarespace.com/static/591dd51215cf7dccddaeec8c/t/5925bd131b10e3761b30e717/1495645462261/OffshoringReport.pdf
[71] http://newsok.com/article/5554464
[72] http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/crime_deviance.htm
[73] http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/sociology/crime-and-deviance/marxism-and-crime/

Joe Allbaugh asked for $700 million increase[74]. A well played riot in the press can and did change the public perception. In California, a Mexican Mafia gang had paid a correctional staff[75] to allow a riot. The Captain who committed suicide was a lieutenant at Folsom while I was incarcerated there. I can personally attest to many correctional officers corruption on many levels. There are many examples of correctional manipulation of riots leading to increased budget requests in the news. This manipulation of incarcerated individuals is horrific.

One possible option if Oklahoma eliminates the death penalty are private prisons[76]. However, that may not be the case in Oklahoma. In 1985, while attending college, I visited family in Oklahoma's capital who were well placed within the then Democrat held powerbase. Basically, the private prison industry was courting legislators with pre-filled legislative bills to be introduced allowing for private prisons in Oklahoma. The trade off with the Democrat leaders if such legislation passed, free stock with the private prison corporation. Ten years later[77], the Democrats sold out Oklahoma for private prisons. I knew of this "stocks for votes" proposal as I read it verbatim during the spring of 1986. Rigged politics is part of the systemic problem within the correctional setting.

Since 1973, 153 persons[78] have been exonerated from death row in the United States. The horrific execution of Clayton Lockett[79] age 38 on April 29, 2014, by the Oklahoma Department of Corrections, the

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74 http://kfor.com/2017/06/27/its-already-hit-the-iceberg-oklahoma-prisons-overflowing-with-inmates/

75 http://m.sfgate.com/news/article/Anguished-prison-guard-My-job-has-killed-me-2810483.php

76 http://deathpenaltyenglish101.weebly.com/private-prisons.html

77 http://www.tulsaworld.com/archives/senators-approve-private-prison-bill/article_22c45947-f539-5a90-a03c-6a0a2c6aa906.html

78 https://deathpenaltyinfo.org/innocence-and-death-penalty

79 https://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/apr/30/oklahoma-execution-botched-clayton-lockett

Oklahoma Death Penalty Review Commission[80], ODPRC, was formed. Locket was administered an untested mixture of chemicals that caused him to have a heart attack and die 43 minutes after the drugs were administered. Just recently, they released their year-long study[81] with recommendations for the State of Oklahoma. It is a first of its kind in the United States.

The ODPRC came together shortly after the state imposed a suspension on executions in October 2015. The moratorium was imposed at the request of the Oklahoma Attorney General to allow for a grand jury investigation of Oklahoma's execution protocol. In May 2016, the grand jury issued a highly critical report and exposed many deeply troubling failures in Oklahoma's execution process. Notably, the grand jury report concluded: "justice has been delayed for the victims' families and the citizens of Oklahoma, and confidence further shaken in the ability of this State to carry out the death penalty."

The bipartisan committee just released their findings[82] of which state legislators will hopefully enact new laws. The commissioners endorsed 46 recommendations, including improvements to Oklahoma's criminal justice system, policy changes, improved funding.

Former Governor Brad Henry[83], a co-chair of ODPRC, said, "the thing most surprising, even shocking, is the depth and persistence of faults within the criminal justice system and the state's death penalty procedures." At the press conference, he told 41 reporters, "at some point it is likely we have executed an innocent person."

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[80] http://okdeathpenaltyreview.org/about/

[81] http://okdeathpenaltyreview.org/the-report/

[82] http://city-sentinel.com/2017/06/members-of-the-oklahoma-death-penalty-review-commission-worked-dutifully-for-one-year-read-the-report/

[83] http://city-sentinel.com/2017/06/members-of-the-oklahoma-death-penalty-review-commission-worked-dutifully-for-one-year-read-the-report/

The Economist[84] reported in 2009 that many states facing budgetary crisis would eliminate the death penalty. Studies[85] do show that the cost of execution is far more expensive than life in prison[86]. Oklahoma under the Republican-controlled legislature for eight years has left the state near bankrupt status. Cash-strapped Oklahoma recently had the DOC director ask for more money[87], approximately $700 million more over ten years.

Oklahoma[88] has exonerated ten persons from death row since 1981. Oklahoma currently has 48[89] persons on death row. In America, non-death penalty prisoners exonerated, since 1989, there have been more than 1,400 exonerations in America, including 27[90] in Oklahoma. Innocent persons could have been executed as former Gov. Henry states, which makes a strong case to abolish the death penalty. With all these plus whatever may be buried by Oklahoma's murky swamp of corruptions, it may be best to abolish the death penalty. Too much is at stake to get it wrong, again, by any means.

While Karl Marx[91] did not write a lot about this, his theories have spurned some critical analysis. Marx said, "Plainly speaking[92], and

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[84] http://www.economist.com/node/13279051

[85] https://deathpenaltyinfo.org/documents/FactSheet.pdf

[86] https://www.forbes.com/sites/kellyphillipserb/2014/05/01/considering-the-death-penalty-your-tax-dollars-at-work/#367b187b664b

[87] http://kfor.com/2017/06/27/its-already-hit-the-iceberg-oklahoma-prisons-overflowing-with-inmates/

[88] https://deathpenaltyinfo.org/innocence?inno_name=&exonerated=&state_innocence=34&race=All&dna=All

[89] https://deathpenaltyinfo.org/state_by_state

[90] http://newsok.com/article/5341408

[91] http://publishing.cdlib.org/ucpressebooks/view?docId=ft4q2nb3dn&chunk.id=d0e1788&toc.id=d0e559&brand=ucpress

[92] http://publishing.cdlib.org/ucpressebooks/view?docId=ft4q2nb3dn&doc.view=popup&chunk.id=fnd0e2397

dispensing with all paraphrases, punishment is nothing but a means of society to defend itself against the infraction of its vital conditions, whatever may be their character. Now, what a state of society is which knows of no better instrument for its own defense than the hangman, and which proclaims through the "leading journal of the world" [The Times] its own brutality as eternal law?" What Marx barely hints at here, but central to the Marxist argument, is it is precisely with its use that punishment is unjust. Marx further states his premise, "The legal system is an apparatus created to secure the interests of the dominant class." His writings further expose the ruling class keeps downtrodden the working class. The bourgeoisie capitalists class imposes their will upon the working class in acts as the authoritarian[93] manner.

True revolutionary change for the criminal justice machine must come from our Marxists ideas. The root cause is set up with the capitalists' authority over the workers. The workers must organize, rise up, and gain control of the ways and means of production. This will surely bring revolutionary change inside the criminal justice system. If we, as a society, can do this, then we will not lead with the highest incarceration rates.

Mark Salay[94] of KWBU says, "The use of prison labor, and its meager compensation, has long been a contentious issue. But while it is private prisons that get a lot of media attention[95] for their for-profit business model, wages for the incarcerated in public and federal prisons, which hold the vast majority of inmates, have declined over the past two decades."

Data compiled by the Prison Policy Initiative shows that the average incarcerated worker in state and federal prison now earns 86 cents[96] per day, a 7 cent decrease from 2001 when inmates earned 93 cents for a day's work.

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[93] https://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1872/10/authority.htm

[94] http://kwbu.org/post/when-prison-costs-are-steep-and-pay-close-nothing#stream/0

[95] http://www.npr.org/2016/08/25/491340335/investigation-into-private-prisons-reveals-crowding-under-staffing-and-inmate-de

[96] https://www.prisonpolicy.org/blog/2017/04/10/wages/

The nation's incarceration rate has spiked as much as 500 percent in the last 40 years[97], driven in part by the War on Drugs and bipartisan "tough-on-crime" policies. While the prison population has skyrocketed, government funding for housing the prisoners have not kept up. That has forced the incarcerated to help pay for the high cost of their imprisonment through steep fees. Coupled with low or in some cases non-existent wages, that has left inmates in destitute conditions throughout their sentence.

"The cost of living goes up every year on the outside and they don't just account for that in prison," said Cole Dorsey, an organizer for the Incarcerated Workers Organizing Committee[98], an offshoot of the Industrial Workers of the World union.

> The Incarcerated Workers Organizing Committee (IWOC), website says, they are a prisoner-led section of the Industrial Workers of the World[99]. They struggle to end prison slavery along with allies and supporters on the outside. On September 9, 2016, they were part of a coalition of inside and outside groups that launched the largest prison strike in US history. Resistance to prison slavery continues with work stoppages, hunger strikes and other acts of resistance to business as usual.
>
> But it will take a mass movement - inside and out - to abolish prison slavery. They now have branches[100] in over 15 prisons and their membership continues to grow. They invite all those who agree with their statement of purpose to join them[101] and to start a local branch in their prison, city, or trailer park. IWW membership is free to those incarcerated and is based on income for those on the outside. They ask supporters to sponsor a prisoner's membership for just $5 a month.

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[97] http://www.sentencingproject.org/issues/incarceration/
[98] https://incarceratedworkers.org/
[99] http://iww.org/
[100] https://incarceratedworkers.org/branches
[101] https://incarceratedworkers.org/get-involved

Incarcerated people are legally slaves as per the 13th Amendment which abolished "slavery and involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for a crime". We are legally slaves. If you've been to prison you'd know we are treated like slaves.

Billions are made annually off their backs. Outrageously priced or grossly inadequate privatized 'services' like healthcare, food, phone calls, assault our humanity - they feed us like animals, suck our families dry, and when sick leave us to die. The government spends as much as an elite college tuition per person to keep each of us incarcerated, but this money does not develop us as human beings, reduce crime or make our communities safer.

They also profit from their labor. At least half of the nation's 1.5 million[102] of those imprisoned in the United States have jobs yet are paid pennies an hour, or even nothing at all. Many of them perform the essential work needed to run the prisons themselves - mopping cellblock floors, preparing and serving food, filing papers and other prison duties. Others of work in "correction industries" programs[103] performing work in areas such as clothing and textile, computer aided design, electronics, and recycling activities. Some even sub-contract with private corporations such as Sprint, Starbucks, Victoria's Secret, and much more.

Prisoners are some of the most exploited workers in the country. There is no minimum wage for prison labor. The average wage is 20 cents an hour, with some states not paying a wage at all. Up to 80% of wages can be withheld by prison officials. There are very few safety regulations and no worker's compensation for injury on the job. While in prison, they try to earn money to support their families, themselves and pay victim restitution yet these wages prevent them from that. They believe that as workers they are guaranteed the same protections and wages as other workers. IWOC is working to abolish prison slavery and this system that does not correct anyone or make our communities safer.

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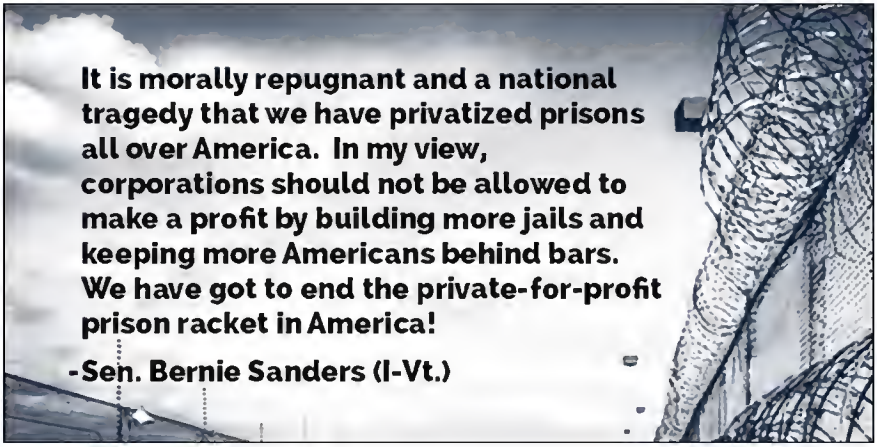
[102] https://www.themarshallproject.org/2016/09/27/a-primer-on-the-nationwide-prisoners-strike#.fGVBXf1lt

[103] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federal_Prison_Industries#Activities



The late Rose Braz, a longtime staffer and member of Critical Resistance emphasized this point in a 2008 interview[104]. "A prerequisite to seeking any social change is the naming of it," she said. "In other words, even though the goal we seek may be far away, unless we name it and fight for it today, it will never come." This is the starting point of abolition, connecting a radical critique of prisons and other forms of state violence with a broader transformative vision.[105]

In a recent article for Jacobin, Dan Berger, Mariame Kaba, and David Stein report[106] that these strategies and tactics harmonize with, inspire, and are inspired by many other left traditions. Socialists do not fight for trade unions in order to institutionalize capitalist social relations or build an aristocracy of labor. They do so in order to create durable structures that undermine the power of employers to exploit workers. And they do so with a radical humanist tradition in mind as well — to make actual people's lives better, to overcome sexual harassment, to reduce workplace injuries, to build solidarity among workers, and, ideally, "to create the new world in the shell of the old."

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[104] http://dissidentvoice.org/2008/07/organizing-to-abolish-the-prison-industrial-complex/

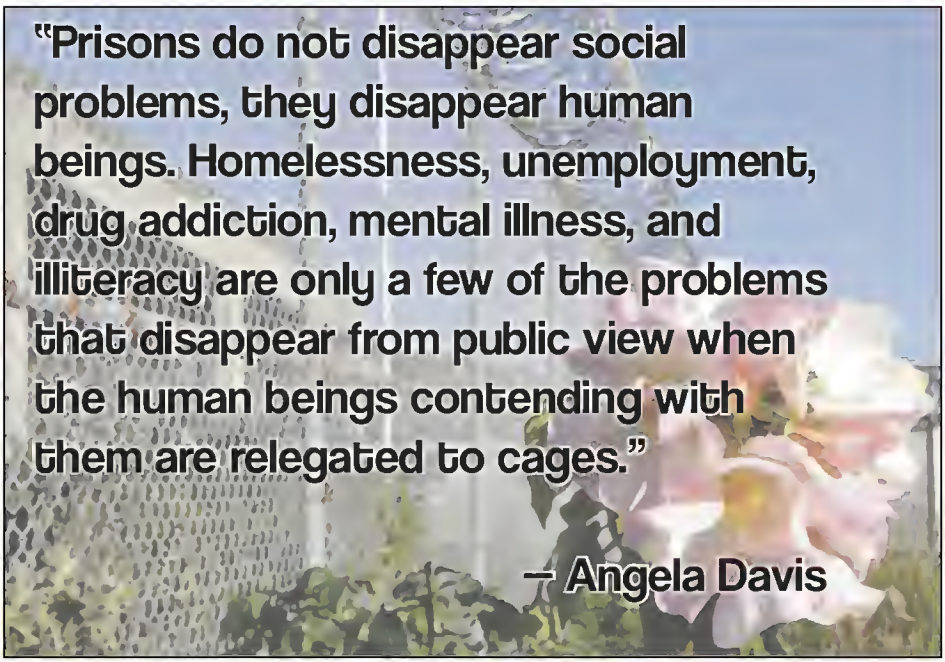
[105] https://jacobinmag.com/2017/08/prison-abolition-reform-mass-incarceration

[106] https://jacobinmag.com/2017/08/prison-abolition-reform-mass-incarceration

Prisons are profitable.
Help keep them full.
Bank of America
Nintendo
Walmart
jcp
Chevron
Eddie Bauer
All of these corporations have exploited sub-minimum wage prison labor to maximize profits.
Facebook.com/BeyondBars

THE U.S. SPENDS 6 TIMES MORE MONEY ON PRISONS THAN EDUCATION AND INCARCERATES 5 TIMES MORE INMATES THAN THE WORLD AVERAGE. SOMETHING IS WRONG WITH THIS PICTURE.
THE BLUE STREET JOURNAL

AMERICA'S PRISON POPULATION
1972
300,000
2014
2,300,000
FRONTLINE.
PRISON STATE | April 29 | 10PM on PBS | www.pbs.org/frontline | #LockedUp


"Prisons do not disappear social problems, they disappear human beings. Homelessness, unemployment, drug addiction, mental illness, and illiteracy are only a few of the problems that disappear from public view when the human beings contending with them are relegated to cages."
– Angela Davis

Chapter 6 Dismantling the Workplace

Within the past few years, much talk has happened regarding the use of robotics in the workplace while displacing the human worker. Sarah Jaffe, author, and journalist said it best in the latest Dissent magazine Winter 2017 article, "As we stare down the barrel of a Donald Trump presidency, the future looks grim for labor. Our new president is a racist billionaire, with decades of experience in the art of screwing workers...We've read hundreds of these stories. We know how they go. But the thing they all seem to gloss over is the question at the heart of this section: the question of politics."[107] This is true, but the politics for me is the grassroots social justice persons amassing quickly under the Trump administration. I think this show will expose how reviewing history and uncovering the core truth of the matter. It is when the workers and grassroots activist stand up together only then will viable change happen.

The model for current work places has changed from my own understanding as I learned in the mid to late 1970's. The whole workplace model has evolved with a concise plan that has taken over 40 years to implement. Many younger so-called knowledge workers no longer toil nine to five in a regular office but spend days and nights in front of their laptops at home or in co-working spaces. Part of the economics of the business model began to change in the 1970's with the work done by Milton Freidman.[108] Milton was the new father of a new economic model in the 60's through the 80's which in turn set in motion a drastic change that totally tilted workers rights.[109] You can read more on Milton here.[110]

The income inequality gap is higher now in our society than any other generation in history. Jaffe says, "Of course, as Rebecca Burns

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107 https://www.dissentmagazine.org/article/winter-2017-future-of-work-introduction-no-retreat

108 https://www.forbes.com/sites/investor/2012/12/14/why-milton-friedman-opposed-right-to-work/#7f4fa18875a9

109 http://www.slobodaiprosperitet.tv/en/node/1202

110 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Milton_Friedman

writes, “it’s much easier to predict the future when you have the power and money to shape it.” As long as this gap is huge, the worker remains in slavery with their CEO. Michael J. Moore in the Winter 2016 NEW POLITICS magazine speaks of this. “Of course, economic inequality raises concern among liberals, social democrats, and socialists alike. For all see in it an ethical problem, one of unfairness, of greed, of unequal control and power. But the new explosion of wealth inequality is much larger in scale than in the previous Gilded Age. It poses different questions with respect to the transformation of capitalism and the classical models and assumptions within which left politics typically operate.[111]”

Economic inequality leads to broader, more general forms of power and control. Despite the dynamic nature of capitalism, the persistence of oligarchy and elite control should still be seen as the central, salient feature of modern society.To successfully fight this oligarchy is to move more LEFT, such as Democratic Socialism. As well common workers have an ally with one of the original workers union in America. The International Workers of the World, IWW[112] can assist in organizing, As well grassroots organizations, Our Revolution (Sen. Bernie Sanders spin off group) Our Democracy, The Young Turks, Black Lives Matter, and Democratic Socialists of America,[113] are all groups which can help amass and organize with breaking up these oligarchies, The early muckrakers left a formidable change for investigative journalists, [114]

The Occupy movement and the Bernie Sanders campaign spotlighted once again the fact that a fairly small number of very rich people dominate the major economic and political institutions of the country.[115] There is a great documentary on corporations you should watch[116]. The information is useful in exposing how corporatism has run

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[111] http://newpol.org/content/rise-servant-society

[112] www.iww.org

[113] www.dsausa.org

[114] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muckraker

[115] http://newpol.org/content/rise-and-fall-muckrakers

[116] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xHrhqtY2khc

amuck. As well Noam Chomsky's **Requiem For the American Dream** is a must see as well. You can view his question and answer video on YouTube.[117] Chomsky unpacks the principles that have brought us to the crossroads of historically unprecedented inequality. Tracing a half-century of policies designed to favor the most wealthy at the expense of the majority, Chomsky lays bare the costly debris left in its wake: the evisceration of the American worker, disappearance of the living wage, collapse of the dream of homeownership, skyrocketing higher education costs placing betterment beyond reach or shackling students to suffocating debt, and a loss of solidarity that has left us divided against ourselves.

Noam Chomsky has said[118] the American Dream in the 1950s and 60s was partly real. Both rich and poor got richer. Since then, we've seen the steady advance of what Chomsky calls the plutonomy and the precariat, that is the wealthy few who run the show and get all the new wealth and the precarious proletariat. Back then, taxes were quite high on corporations, dividends, and wealth. Not anymore.

The greed of corporatists today is even greedier than the robber barons of years past. This is the issue. This current exhibition is indicative of the system it has become. It will take many like minded working-class groups to lock arms in resistance and solidarity before the change is possible. No one organization can slay the beast modern corporatism has become. But for a more loving society socialism must take root in America. Or this is the requiem for the American dream.

When Republicans speak of being for capitalism what they really mean is corporatism. They speak of wanting free markets. If we truly had free markets we would have Tesla making all the cars.

Recently I moved to a very rural town with just 600 residents. I wanted to slow down and focus on my writing. The only job opportunity

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[117] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qk9aSQwkMck

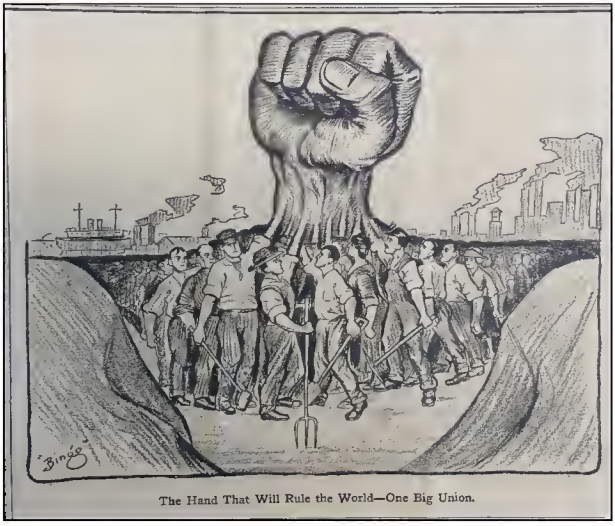
[118] http://www.alternet.org/news-amp-politics/noam-chomsky-wants-you-wake-american-dream

was the only store in town. It was one those general dollar retail stores. The company training video started with the spokesperson reminding me, an employee, my only job was to ensure the shareholder's financial return. As well their voluminous policy books were presented to me.

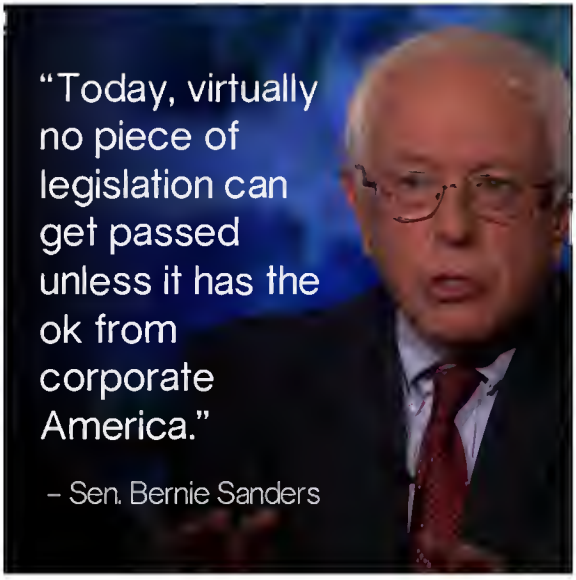
The expectations of this corporation of their employees were over the top unattainable. Yet the many policies that the board of directors engineered insured that they could belittle the employee into submission. Many of my co-workers could not live up to their expectations. Management constant bitching also produced a lot of depression pill popping employees. There was always a dark depressing feeling emanating from all employees. No employee I met could afford the average $200 deduction for medical coverage, as most employees were paid a bit above minimum wage. $200 is a lot when you live in poverty.

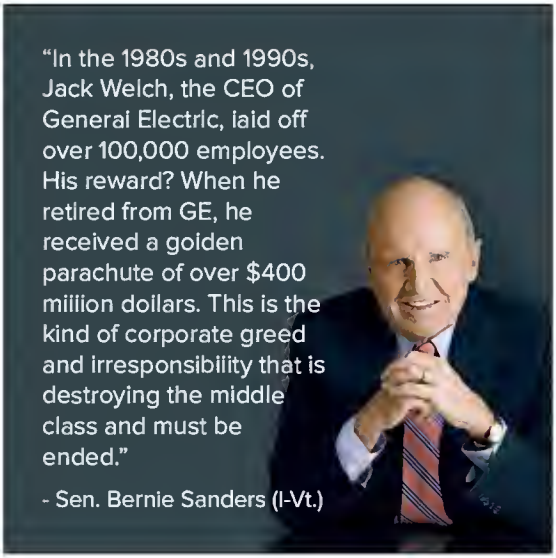
I also witnessed the firing of older employees for new hires that were in their late teens or early twenties. The company policies came into play so they could show why fired employees should not be paid unemployment pay. Another corporatist money saving implementation.

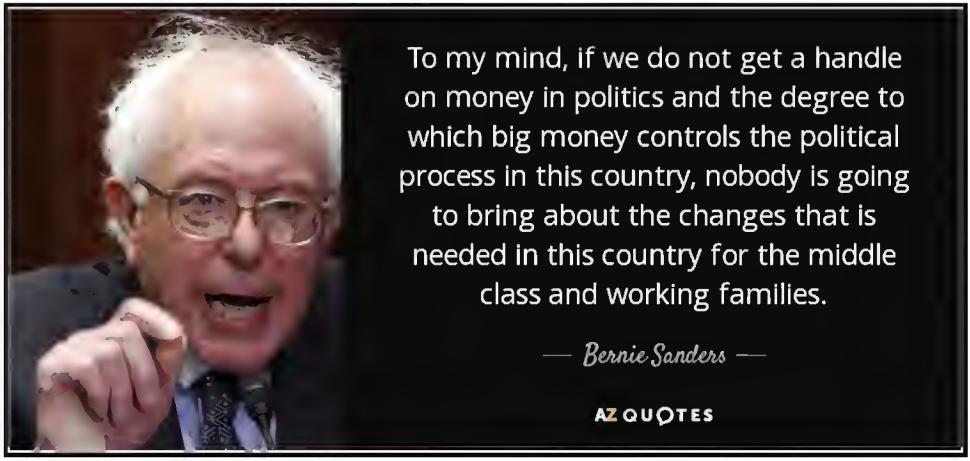
This was not the business model I first worked under in the mid-1970. What I explained and witnessed is the new business plan for most all companies. It is the vast rural working-class that suffers the most from capitalism. Who is hurt by all this is the working-class. It is time for working-class to get organized and unionized.



The Hand That Will Rule the World—One Big Union.




"In the 1980s and 1990s, Jack Welch, the CEO of General Electric, laid off over 100,000 employees. His reward? When he retired from GE, he received a golden parachute of over $400 million dollars. This is the kind of corporate greed and irresponsibility that is destroying the middle class and must be ended."
- Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.)


To my mind, if we do not get a handle on money in politics and the degree to which big money controls the political process in this country, nobody is going to bring about the changes that is needed in this country for the middle class and working families.
— Bernie Sanders —
AZ QUOTES

Want to make America great again?

Here's how you really do it:

1. Strengthen unions
2. Raise the minimum wage
3. Stop corporate welfare
4. Bring manufacturing jobs back home
5. Penalize companies that hide their profits overseas to escape tax liabilities
6. End "right-to-work" laws
7. Get big money out of politics

Making it easy to support good jobs

Labor 411

Chapter 7: I've Got To Know

Okemah, OK born folk singer, Woody Guthrie[119], wrote a beautifully penned song, ***I've Got To Know.***[120] His granddaughter Sarah Lee Guthrie sings a haunting version of it![121] Within the seventeen verses are words that reflect much truth today. Though written over seventy years ago, the words are still as fresh.

Why do your war boats ride on my waters?
Why do your death bombs fall from my skies?
Why do you burn my farm and my town down?
I've got to know, friend, I've got to know!
What makes your boats haul death to my people?
Nitro blockbusters, big cannons, and guns?
Why doesn't your ship bring food and some clothing?
I've sure got to know, folks, I've sure got to know!

Our industrial military complex is just as complacent and aligned with as the International Monetary Fund.[122] Money and the use of force is a tool for capitalism to keep persons and cultures oppressed. If you can for a second imagine this. Imagine if the money used to stage war were given to the working class, would it not aid in more peace? Yet if through media and propaganda the capitalists use keep blinders on the eyes of the oppressed. Makes you wonder, Why doesn't the warship bring food and clothing?

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[119] http://woodyguthrie.org/index.htm
[120] http://woodyguthrie.org/Lyrics/Ive_Got_To_Know.htm
[121] https://youtu.be/UftDEofGmqE?list=FLCZiM7ZsOJLk0PiiKb3QS6Q
[122] http://theantimedia.org/us-military-uses-imf-and-world-bank-to-launder-85-of-its-black-budget/

The CIA and NSA alone garnered $52.6 billion[123] in funding in 2013 while the Department of Defense black ops budget for secret military projects exceeds this number. It is estimated to be $58.7 billion for the fiscal year 2015.

Jake Anderson[124] wrote:

> However, of greater interest to some may be the clandestine nature and full scope of the black budget, which, according to analyst Catherine Austin Fitts, goes far beyond classified appropriations. Based on her research, some of which can be found in her piece "What's Up With the Black Budget?"[125] Fitts concludes that the during the last decade, global financial elites have configured an elaborate system that makes most of the military budget un-auditable. This is because the real black budget includes money acquired by intelligence groups via narcotics trafficking, predatory lending, and various kinds of other financial fraud.
>
> The result of this vast, geopolitically-sanctioned money laundering scheme is that Housing and Urban Development and other agencies[126] are used for drug trafficking and securities fraud. According to Fitts[127], the scheme allows for at least 85 percent of the U.S. federal budget to remain unaudited.
>
> Fitts has been researching this issue since 2001 when she began to believe that a financial coup d'etat was underway. Specifically, she suspected that the banks, corporations, & investors acting in each global region were part of a "global heist[128] ," whereby capital was being sucked out of each country. She was right.

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[123] http://www.usnews.com/news/articles/2015/02/02/black-budget-requests-remain-secret

[124] http://theantimedia.org/us-military-uses-imf-and-world-bank-to-launder-85-of-its-black-budget/

[125] https://solari.com/blog/whats-up-with-the-black-budget/

[126] https://solari.com/blog/financial-coup-d%E2%80%99etat/

[127] http://www.dunwalke.com/gideon/q301.pdf

[128] https://solari.com/blog/financial-coup-d%E2%80%99etat/

This overtly gross money spending compounded by what other countries spend, it simply is robbing the poor. It's through taxes paid by the working class. Our government wastes the precious money from the poor which could be used for them instead. Again, our government is supposed to represent us not become a robber baron.

To be a good citizen one must keep vigilant on how much power it gives away to the government. Eisenhower's[129] fears about the military-industrial complex reflected his more general concern about militarism, or an overemphasis on military policy and spending, which he thought was costing the nation far too much money. In a remarkable and now famous statement made early in his presidency in April 1953, Eisenhower (1960) declared,

> *Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired, signifies in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed. This world in arms is not spending money alone. It is spending the sweat of its laborers, the genius of its scientists, the hopes of its children. This is not a way of life at all in any true sense. Under the clouds of war, it is humanity hanging on a cross of iron.*

A half-century after Eisenhower made this statement, U.S. military spending continues unabated. In 2009 it was $767 billion (including $92 billion for veterans' benefits) and accounted for almost 22% of all federal spending[130] but also for a much higher percentage of federal spending over which the government has any control. The federal budget includes both mandatory and discretionary spending. As the name implies, mandatory spending is required by various laws and includes such things as Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid, food stamps, and interest payments on the national debt; much of these mandatory expenses are

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[129] http://open.lib.umn.edu/sociology/chapter/13-5-the-military-industrial-complex/

[130] U.S. Census Bureau. (2010). *Statistical abstract of the United States: 2010*. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office. Retrieved from http://www.census.gov/compendia/statab.

funded by trust funds, such as Social Security taxes, which are raised and spent separately from income taxes. Discretionary spending involves the money the president and Congress must decide how to spend each year and includes income tax dollars only. Military spending accounts for about 43% of discretionary spending.[131]

The U.S. military budget is by far the highest in the world and dwarfs the military budgets for the nations ranking after the United States. In 2009, the U.S. military budget was $661 billion. The nations ranking after the United States were China, $100 billion; France, $64 billion; the United Kingdom, $58 billion; Russia, $53 billion; Japan, $51 billion; and Germany, $46 billion. U.S. military spending accounted for 43% of the world's military spending in 2009.[132]

Anonymous Patriots[133] wrote: "We are not only incensed that our elected officials are turning a blind eye to the transnational enemy within our country and around the world, we are disgusted with these warlords, both military and corporate, that send our sons and daughters to wars-for-profit to have their blood spilled for their own families' profits. As citizens of the world, we are filled with anger when we see men, women, and children slaughtered and displaced so that the few at the top can earn profits from blood and guns. We are sick and tired of wars *ad nauseam*, from our fathers who were killed in Viet Nam, our neighbors on 9-11, displaced war refugees around the world, not to mention the millions of starving children around the world who could use the money we spend on DARPA and their war tools for clean water, food, and education."

Within their article, it fully lays out who is behind the military industrial complex. The upper 10% is dictating the daily struggles of the other 90%. But my math shows that at anytime the 90% can and should rise up against the 10%. The decision is ours. In time I think more will wake up to this fact.

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[131] Friends Committee on National Legislation. (2009). *How much of your 2008 income taxes pay for war?* Washington, DC: Friends Committee on National Legislation. Retrieved from http://www.fcnl.org/issues/item.php?item_id=3553&issue_id=19.

[132] Stockholm International Peace Research Institute. (2010). The 15 major spender countries in 2009. Retrieved from http://www.sipri.org/research/armaments/milex/resultoutput/15majorspenders.

[133] http://stateofthenation2012.com/?p=34801

War and chaos are tools of the capitalists/oppressors to rise up or rally the working-class. It is always a false flag in the media we should be aware of. Too often many get caught up in this game. The enemy is within our own country, the enemy is not mysteriously out there. Of course, the largest portion of America's budget is reserved for the military. What does that say about American values? What does that say about the American dream? It is OUR tax money, we should have a say in how it is spent.

Kaethe Kollwitz, German Expressionist, wrote: "*Every war already carries within it the war that will answer it. Every war is answered by a new war, until everything is smashed. That is why I am so wholeheartedly for a radical end to this madness and why my only hope is in world socialism*." She wrote that on 21 February 1944, a year before she died.

Someday I envision those working class awoke folks will show up in Washington for a budget committee hearing. Imagine 100,000 citizens showing up to observe and let the legislators know we are watching. How soon do you think a change would happen? I've got to know!

Chapter 8: What About Germany

When I was in college I had an art minor. I studied exclusively on Kaethe Kollwitz who was a German Expressionist. In her diary she spoke of the Dresden Society and Free Society which she was a member. **Die Brücke**[134] (**The Bridge**) was a group of German expressionist artists formed in Dresden in 1905, after which the Brücke Museum in Berlin was named. Founding members were Fritz Bleyl, Erich Heckel, Ernst Ludwig Kirchner and Karl Schmidt-Rottluff. Later members were Emil Nolde, Max Pechstein, and Otto Mueller. The seminal group had a major impact on the evolution of modern art in the 20th century and the creation of expressionism.

Progenitors of the movement later known as German Expressionism[135], Die Brücke formed in Dresden in 1905 as a bohemian collective of artists in staunch opposition to the older, established bourgeois social order of Germany. Their art confronted feelings of alienation from the modern world by reaching back to pre-academic forms of expression including woodcut prints, carved wooden sculptures, and "primitive" modes of painting. This quest for authentic emotion led to an expressive style characterized by heightened color and a direct, simplified approach to form.

Expressionism was a modernist movement, initially in poetry and painting, originating in Germany at the beginning of the 20th century. Its typical trait is to present the world solely from a subjective perspective, distorting it radically for emotional effect in order to evoke moods or ideas. Expressionist artists sought to express the meaning of emotional experience rather than physical reality.

Kaethe wrote about how these artist groups met weekly. Drinking tea and discussing social issues. The artists were poets, playwrights, musicians, artists, a few philosophers, and writers. What each took away

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[134] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Die_Br%C3%BCcke
[135] http://www.theartstory.org/movement-die-brucke.htm

from their weekly soiree was an idea or consensus of their talks. These groups were able through the arts to engage society in relation to social issues. It was through the arts that Germany thoughts were moved more leftists in the late 1800's.

If we look back at the folk artists of the Sixties we see the fabric of expressionism. It was the poets, writers, musicians in America that helped shape public consciousness. Playwrights, art, books, music all were vital components for social change.

Present fascists regimes and Trump's administration is best fought through the arts. Yes, social protesting is just as important. But the leftist ideals and mindset has to emanate from the social consciousness. To achieve this it has to be a coordinated effort from the arts communities.

The artists should begin another modern expressionist movement. Societies made up of various art forms artists. Art must begin to reflect the leftists ideals. Or simply how the current social justice issues need to be on the public minds. The artists rising up from this new movement can help shape public consciousness.

When people think of art, they think of bizarre creations and beautiful intricate paintings hung up in museums. Essentially, the process of bringing an artwork to life is a creative one but art itself can also serve a purpose. It can be used as a way to raise awareness about issues that affect us in our daily lives.[136]

Art can heal us, inspire us, and alter our brain chemistry.[137] With so much talk about the evidence of the positive effects of yoga and meditation, you might be surprised at what scientific research also says about how art affects the brain. Long before modern neuroscience, artists were creating works to inspire people and today complex brain imaging scans can show us just how art changes the physiology of our brains.

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[136] http://www.hongkiat.com/blog/public-awareness-artwork/
[137] http://upliftconnect.com/art-changes-consciousness/

Contemplation, observing, and taking in beauty all stimulate pleasure centers within the brain while increasing blood flow by up to 10% in the medial orbitofrontal cortex. This can lead to an elevated state of consciousness, well being, and better emotional health.

Niklas Luhmann, in his book ***Art as a Social System,***[138] states: In disposing over awareness, consciousness is not usually aware of itself and available to answer questions That it can be drawn upon by social communication only in a unique manner that art can**.**

Seed Corn Must Not Be Planted **Kaethe Kollwitz 1942**

138 https://books.google.com/books?hl=en&lr=&id=uEBiiMH6nJ0C&oi=fnd&pg=PA1&dq=social+awareness+through+art&ots=EsvZ-YUIF6&sig=WA8SzExUe72gh2AjREphki7d20k#v=onepage&q&f=false

Chapter 9: Media Wars

I worked over 15 years in the communications media business. First as an on-air personality, then a producer, newspaper journalist, and some public relations writing. During my radio days, I did some news stringing for larger market radio on certain news events, One such time was a murder trial being run in Muskogee, OK. I was working at KBIX and KRMG out of Tulsa, OK asked me to cover it for them. It was while I was at KBIX that the Fairness Doctrine[139] was struck down by President Reagan in June of 1987. During the trial one day the District Attorney wanted to introduce crime scene photographs. The defense lawyers objected citing it would incense the jury. The judge dismissed the jury and reviewed the photographs. The media pool was able to see the photos as well. The judge allowed it to be entered into evidence. The trial continued. I called in my report and Rand LaVonn, KRMG News, recorded it. He asked me if I saw the photos. At that point, I asked for the recording device to be turned off. I confirmed with Rand if it was off. He assured me that it was. I then described the gruesomeness of the photos. Later that night my brother called from Tulsa stating that my news story had totally grossed him out enough that he could not eat dinner. The next day I called Rand and asked why he had lied to me on turning the recorder off. He said, "It's 5pm prime time news. If it bleeds it leads." I told him he was being unethical and I quit stringing for KRMG. That was my first time in seeing the demise of ethical, honest news media in broadcasting.

The Fairness Doctrine also established some guidelines with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in how many markets a media company could own stations. After the repeal in 1987, you began to see media outlets merging and buying out smaller markets. During this time you saw media groups diversify and get involved financially with all forms of media. Whether it was radio, television, magazines, print, and movie studios the ownership dwindled to just a handful of groups.

Presently six media group's own 90% of all media consumed by U.S. citizens.[140] Six companies tell you their editorial views or slant whether it

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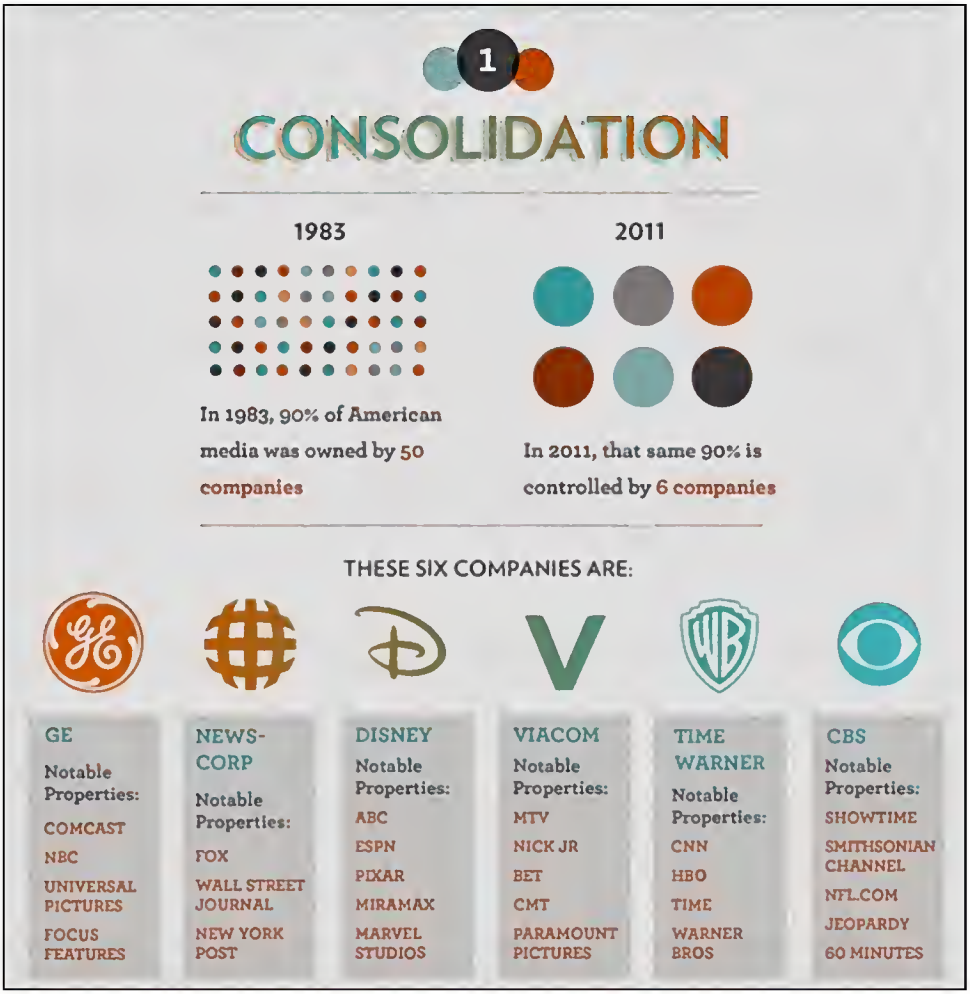
[139] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Faimess_Doctrine

[140] http://www.morriscreative.com/6-corporations-control-90-of-the-media-in-america/

is radio, television, print, or movies. And knowing what we do on the capitalist present company policy it is being driven by advertisement. Forbes reported in 2016 that fifteen billionaires own the media in the United States.[141]



http://static2.businessinsider.com/image/4fd9ee1e6bb3f7af5700000a/media-infographic.jpg

141 https://www.forbes.com/sites/katevinton/2016/06/01/these-15-billionaires-own-americas-news-media-companies/1

The above graphic[142] shows the main parent companies and all their subsidiaries. These few companies pay for advertising with the six companies that own 90% 0f our media. Those fifteen billionaires are the capitalists that allow other billionaires to usurp our decision making while we gladly turn our money over to them. Do you see how sick this system is? As well, the editorial decisions by these media group are always driven by money. So our news no longer is merely the facts but carefully worded spin to make billionaires more money. I say get off this merry go round. Stop the madness.

There are plenty of reliable progressive and leftist independently owned media you can get real news from. I personally get my news from such outlets and no longer dragged along by a chain with the mainstream news. Mainstream news misleads, misguides, and has a hidden agenda. Don’t be played by the capitalists owned news outlets. It’s a money game.

I will list some reliable progressive media outlets you can trust.

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142 http://2.bp.blogspot.com/-3n_GbJVCIuI/UnUmZ-3ntzI/AAAAAAAAX04/WShRP19HwEc/s1600/10+Mega-Corporations.png

Democracy Now,[143] The Young Turks[144], Thom Hartman[145] are great television based news. Print sources are The Nation[146], In These Times[147], Monthly Review[148], Dissent[149], New Politics[150], Yes[151], Mother Jones[152]. Internet based is The People's World[153], Mint Press News[154], and Al Jazeera[155]. New locally produced progressive media is popping up all the time. Support these alternative sources. The real truth is with them. If you get away from the mainstream news you also slowly hurt the capitalist owned bourgeoisie newsgroups. Every chain we break weakens them. Every time a new progressive news aware person awakes, the stronger the resistance becomes. Be part of the solution. Not part of the problem.

A great documentary to watch is called ***The Brainwashing of My Dad***.[156] Their website synopsis says, "As filmmaker, Jen Senko, tries to understand the transformation of her father from a non political, lifelong Democrat to an angry, Right-Wing fanatic, she uncovers the forces behind the media that changed him completely: a plan by Roger Ailes under Nixon for a media takeover by the GOP, The Powell Memo urging business leaders to influence institutions of public opinion, especially the universities, the media and the courts, and under Reagan, the dismantling of the Fairness Doctrine." Personally, I've witnessed what was the greatest time for journalists. And I've seen what has become the ruin of journalism. Today I write for a 98-year old established progressive leftist news media. I know what I write and what my editors stand for is social justice and truth. We all make choices. In media, those of us on the front lines for the resistance need to set the example.

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[143] https://www.democracynow.org
[144] https://tytnetwork.com
[145] https://www.thomhartmann.com
[146] https://www.thenation.com
[147] https://inthesetimes.com
[148] https://monthlyreview.org
[149] https://www.dissentmagazine.org
[150] https://newpol.org
[151] www.yesmagazine.org
[152] www.motherjones.com
[153] https://peoplesworld.org
[154] www.mintpressnews.com
[155] http://www.aljazeera.com/
[156] http://www.thebrainwashingofmydad.com/

The Bourgeois Press

(From the "Correspondence of the Young International")

What is the Press? What do we mean when we speak of the Press? This is very important and something we should all understand, for it is the Press that moulds Puplic Opinion. Nay, further, it is the press that controls the World! The Press is the great machine that issues the news. It not only publishes newspapers but it is the instrument whereby we get our printed matter and unltimately, our ideas and knowledge. Now I have said that the workers, and especially the young workers, should get a thorough conception of what this means. Why? Firstly it being a newsproducer and the source of information the workers should know whether the matter contained in the publications are true and accurate. Now comes the great problem:

Can we rely upon the Capitalist Press as being truthful?

I declare most emphatically, No! How can it possibly be, seeing that it is owned and controlled by the Capitalists and therefore the factory and landowners. But probably you will ejaculate, "What does it matter who owns the Press, as long as they publish the news?" Of course it matters. Let me explain The wealthiest people are the people who can form themselves into a group with the object of "running" a newspaper. This group is known as a Syndicate, and it is the object of this syndicate to make the Paper a "paying concern" in order to assure their shareholders receiving good dividends. Here we have already gained some knowledge, i. e.,—

That the Press is not to supply the People with News, but rather their Shareholders with Profits!

Now, the man who buys the most shares has the most say in the management of the paper and therefore takes the position of the Managing Director, and subsequently the other shareholders take their position on the paper, according to the amount of shares they have bought. Now, who are the people who can buy the most shares in order to have the decisive voice on the policy of the paper? Naturally, the factory and landowners. Your Bosses. What is the result of such owned papers?

Any news coming in which is liable to interfere with the owners' interests or is apt to make the workers discontented is immediately distorted or altogether suppressed. In the last miners' lock-out it was necessary to "manufacture" wicked tales about the miners. So Editors turned their hands to producing slander and lies. If they fail to make an impression by one method, they try another, usually one that will appeal to the humanitarian instinct of the people. So they said that the miners were leaving the pit ponies down in the mines to starve and in some cases to drown. And you who read this stuff never for a moment doubt the integrity of such news, and never stop to think that the miner is no different from any other human being, and therefore is just as humane. Now, let us imagine for a moment, that the steel workers come out in strike. We do not make sufficient inquiries to find out who owns certain papers. If we did, we might learn that the owner happens to have great interests vested in the steelworks with the result that

he publishes lies!

he must publish lies!

--and a distorted report of the demands of the workers. The workers' leaders evading this, send in correct information regarding the strike, and do the News Controllers publish it? Not by any means. Wherever there happens to be a Communist Leader, there, again, we receive news to the effect that "a most peculiar individual, who breathes blood and Revolution and carries bombs in his pockets" is engaged in such and such an area in misleading the people—hence the strike. Then they go a little farther by declaring that that sort of discontent is being encouraged by alien elements that ought to be deported. Every single one of them!

But, of course, we know that the aliens are just as we are—wage slaves. That they have nothing to gain by stirring up the people and that, were they deported, they would still be wage slaves.

Do you know that when Big Business wants a war, in order to appease their lust for Profits, they resort to Newspaper Popaganda. They publish as many falsehoods as possible concerning the particular Nation they want to prey upon until they make your minds quite ripe for war. The rest is easy. Big Business finances the Government and State projects, and therefore Big Business has a say in the affairs of State, in which they interest themselves to such an extent as to create misery and despair which inevitably follows war.

I think I have told you sufficient to make you realize that under Capitalism Truth will never be forthcoming, and I have no doubt, that you, young workers, who read this, will understand, that we, as the future men and women of this world, have got to alter this Press System. The Truth will only be published when the workers print and publish their own papers. Your parents have the "Communist" and now you have the "Young Communist." This paper is yours because it is your money and the money of your fellow workers that produces it. Help to maintain it! Encourage the publication of **Truth!** by buying it, reading it, and joining the Young Communist League.

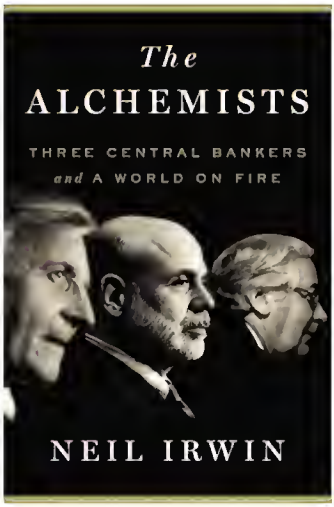
Not much has changed from 1922[157]?

[157] Young, Young Workers League of New York, 1922, page 15, New York. https://www.marxists.org/history//usa/pubs/youngworker/v1n1-feb-1922-yw.pdf

Chapter 10: Give Me That Money

The nightmarish covert manner that our Federal Reserve was created is worth studying. Anytime greed, corporatists, bourgeoise are involved it is downright icky.

> The mustachioed man in the silk top hat strode to his private railcar parked at a New Jersey train station, a mahogany-paneled affair with velvet drapes and well-polished brass accents. Five more men — and a legion of porters and servants — soon joined him. They referred to one another by their first names only, an uncommon informality in 1910, intended to give the staff no hints as to who the men actually were, lest rumors make their way to the newspapers and then to the trading floors of New York and London. One of the men, a German immigrant named Paul Warburg, carried a borrowed shotgun in order to look like a duck hunter, despite having never drawn a bead on a waterfowl in his life.



Adapted from "The Alchemists: Three Central Bankers and a World on Fire," by Neil Irwin. Irwin, a Washington Post columnist and economics editor of Wonkblog, was the Post's beat reporter covering the Federal Reserve and other central banks from 2007 to 2012. The book tells of how the central bankers came to exert vast power over the global economy, from their 17th century beginnings to the present, and tells the inside story of how they wielded that power from 2007 on as they fought a global financial crisis. Excerpted by permission of The Penguin Press, a member of the Penguin Group (USA), © Neil Irwin. Buy it from Amazon here.

> Two days later, the car deposited the men at the small Georgia port town of Brunswick, where they boarded a boat for the final leg of their journey. Jekyll Island, their destination, was a

private resort owned by the powerful banker J.P. Morgan and some friends, a refuge on the Atlantic where they could get away from the cold New York winter. Their host — the man in the silk top hat — was Nelson Aldrich, one of the most powerful senators of the day, a lawmaker who lorded over the nation's financial matters.

For nine days, working all day and into the night, the six men debated how to reform the U.S. banking and monetary systems, trying to find a way to make this nation just finding its footing on the global stage less subject to the kinds of financial collapses that had seemingly been conquered in Western Europe. Secrecy was paramount. "Discovery," wrote one attendee later, "simply must not happen, or else all our time and effort would have been wasted. If it were to be exposed publicly that our particular group had got together and written a banking bill, that bill would have no chance whatever of passage by Congress."[158]

G. Edward Griffin also has written an insightful book on this. It's entitled ***"The Creature from Jekyll Island"***.[159] You need to realize that this entity is unaudited. It is comprised by International financiers who **CONTROL** the American banking system. It was designed and set up this way for a purpose. This purpose does **NOT** have best interests of the common worker class. Designed to enslave the working class and continues to as well.

They are private bankers in business to make money. The economists teach us that the Federal Reserve is good. That it's beneficial and keeps recessions at bay. But realize they are part of the hidden agenda to keep average working class in the dark. They are private, not a government agency. They are international bankers with absolutely no national allegiance. In any country they operate they have no allegiance either.

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[158] https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2013/12/21/the-federal-reserve-was-created-100-years-ago-this-is-how-it-happened/?utm_term=.429c2097fa82

[159] https://archive.org/details/CreatureFromJekyllIslandByG.EdwardGriffin

Thee Federal Treasury issues a bond to the Federal Reserve. Who then the FRB authorise and secures the printing of that currency. The US Treasury then prints a Federal Reserve Note based upon amount of the bond. Look at your bills it says on the front Federal Reserve NOTE. These bonds bears interest to the FRB. We are basically paying interest to print our own money.

In essence we perceive a dollar to have value. So if you dump a Trillion dollars into the market, you've basically diluted the value of the dollar.That process is called quantitative easement. Yes more money is floating about but it keeps getting less and less value.

Let's talk gold. Gold has not went up or down in over 100 years. Same gold will buy you the same amount of goods and services as it did 100 years ago. What has gone up is the amount of cash it takes to buy.

German, Max Warburg was head of German banks, and England financiers were part of the International bankers that set up FRB. Then they loaned US money for printing currency. Why are International folks involved instead of our own Treasury?

How does this affect grassroots revolutionaries? We need to get rid of privately owned central banks! Thomas Jefferson said, "If the American people ever allow private banks to control the issue of their money, first by inflation and then by deflation, the banks and corporations that will grow up around them (around the banks), will deprive the people of their property until their children will wake up homeless on the continent their fathers conquered.[160] George Washington said in a letter, Jan. 9, 1787 "Paper money has had the effect in your state that it will ever have, to ruin commerce, oppress the honest, and open the door to every species of fraud and injustice."

Our world is based on fiat paper money, meaning it is not backed by any commodity. No gold, no silver, no commodity, baseless paper. We strive to work to get paper money. It is a magic spell or wizardry that creates this myth that paper money is our goal. To fully understand this, listen to this podcast.[161] Mike Maloney speaks further on the hidden secrets of money.[162] Maloney has a whole series which is an eye opening

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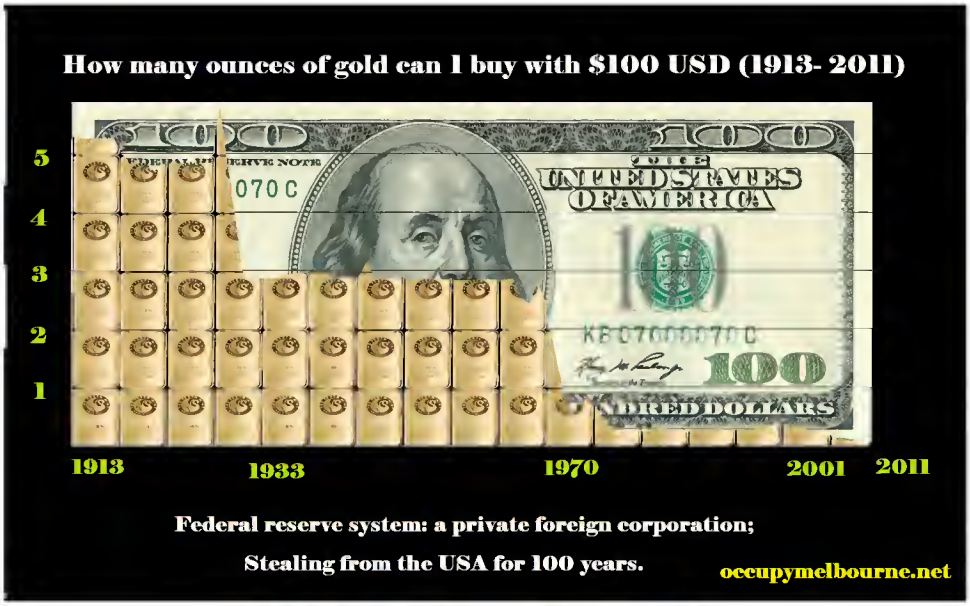
[160] http://educatorssite.com/?p=904
[161] https://youtu.be/05g_mHaSB8s
[162] https://youtu.be/DyV0OfU3-FU

truth regarding money[163]. Well worth your time to watch. Also this video shows the deception between reality and perceived reality of wealth. [164]



Don't scroll past this!! Time to End the Fed Join Us: The Free Thought Project

[163] https://goldsilver.com/hidden-secrets/episode-1/
[164] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=slTF_XXoKAQ

GIVE A MAN A GUN AND HE CAN ROB A BANK
GIVE A MAN A BANK AND HE CAN ROB THE WORLD
quickmeme.com

100 YEARS OF NOT BEING FEDERAL
UNITED STATES FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM
AND NOT HAVING ANY RESERVES

Chapter 11: One Nation Under…

Our historical essence of one nation has somewhat broke down in the past 200 years. Even more so most recently with the oppressive nationalism platform of President Trump.

JOHN BACHTELL, Chair of the Communist Party USA, says,"Taken together with a spate of other Trump Administration announcements, its aim is crystal clear: to bull-rush through an unpopular agenda, ensure authoritarian rule, and consolidate a permanent governing constituency based on white nationalism."[165] "But the core of white supremacists with fascist alt-right ties in the Oval Office and Justice Department are driving social policy: Attorney General Jeff Sessions and presidential advisors Stephen K. Bannon, Stephen Miller, and Sebastian Gorka, et al."

Being an American, as a child learning in school, was something to take pride in. Yes, it was indoctrination, yet we studied the many valuable contributions of immigrants. We understood that under the umbrella of American pride was acknowledgement of all races and cultures. Somewhere in the forty-five year gap between childhood and present day, this has changed. What seems to be substituted now is an alt-right pure white nationalism movement. This movement is totally un-American. But is portrayed as being American. How did this come about?

Rachel Johnson, In These Times journalist, reports, "The Southern Poverty Law Center, a leading hate group watchdog, acknowledges that the alt-right consists of a diverse set of ideologies but sees racism as its single unifying feature. The ragtag alt-right, according to a recent report by the Center, converges around 'white ethno-nationalism as a fundamental value.' "[166] Max Elbaum has come up

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165 http://www.peoplesworld.org/article/white-nationalism-in-trump-administration-the-real-threat-to-democracy/

166 http://inthesetimes.com/article/19985/alt-right-sexism-white-nationalism-trump-bannon-breitbart

with Five Ways to Combat this White Nationalism.[167] It's one thing to work on ways to remedy this, but we need to look at the root of it. But first consider Elbaum's analysis, "The Right's goal is to establish a racialized, authoritarian state. Given the unpopularity of their economic agenda, and demographic changes not working in their favor, the Right sees that kind of state as needed to implement their full program of fossil fuel-driven capitalism and permanent global hegemony. This is not classical fascism: It more closely resembles the United States during the height of Jim Crow, or Israel today, than the bourgeois democracy that has defined the United States since legalized discrimination was abolished in the 1960s."

Nationalism is no different than the old term White Colonialism. At the root is oppression. It mostly definitely is a class-war as well. Michael Joseph Roberto, Monthly Review magazine, said, "Donald Trump's presidency marks the most acute stage of the protracted crisis of U.S. imperial hegemony and its trajectory toward neo fascism. The president, his closest advisers, and some key cabinet members are now promoting an openly racist, xenophobic, and nationalist ideology. As John Bellamy Foster has noted, none of this is new to right-wing politics."[168] Nationalism is a long used tool of the alt-right and Republicans for over forty years. It also quite deliberately favors corporatism. "Foster (John Bellamy) cites a 1952 exchange between Marxist economist Paul Baran and *MR* founding editor Paul Sweezy, in which both agreed that fascism was one political form in the monopoly-imperialist phase of capitalism, making it difficult to recognize the precise "jumping [off] place" between liberal democracy and fascism", said Roberto. The capitalist only desires to hoodwink the classes. If you can't tell where one theory starts or ends, you;ve masked it well. Nationalism, while race related, is all about class warfare and stacked odds against the working class. This battle has been fought on all sides since time immemorial.

Roberto puts all the pieces together in a conceptual way.

> In the U.S. capitalist epicenter, the driving force of fascism came from the capitalist class itself, intent on extending and protecting the wealth and power it had gained during the boom years of the 1920s. In Germany, by contrast, fascism found its

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[167] http://inthesetimes.com/article/20513/anti-capitalist-left-white-supremacy-donald-trump-electoral-politics

[168] https://monthlyreview.org/2017/06/01/the-origins-of-american-fascism/

> natural base in a disaffected lower middle class moved by rising nationalist anger over the punitive accords of Versailles. In Germany, terrorist ultra-nationalism brought Hitler and his party to power. In the United States, capitalists with the assistance of the State smashed labor during the Red Scare and shared common ground with reactionary terrorist groups such as the Ku Klux Klan in promoting the doctrine of "100 percent Americanism." However, from 1922 until 1929 they propagated a more palatable nationalism in the form of the American Plan, a strategy of the "open shop" and company unions, used against organized labor.

This concept of nationalism, which Trump promotes, has it's legacy with Adolph Hitler. This is why so many progressives are protesting each step so fiercely. We've seen where this nationalism mentality leads to. And it's not a pretty sight to look at.

It is hard to not discuss nationalism without including a global plan for such. Recently I watched the documentary, ***Bilderberg***[169], "about the origins, development and expansion of one of the most elitist and secret organizations in today's world: The Bilderberg Group." Daniel Estulin, investigative journalist, made this move. Estulin said,"This film presents a human story that transcends decades, borders and ideologies. Using methods that resemble the spy tactics of the Cold War, I did what no one else has managed to achieve: I learned what was being said behind the closed doors of the opulent hotels and have made it available to the public."

President John F. Kennedy[170] spoke directly about the abuses of secret societies.

> The very word "secrecy" is repugnant in a free and open society; and we are as a people inherently and historically opposed to secret societies, to secret oaths and to secret proceedings. We decided long ago that the dangers of excessive and unwarranted concealment of pertinent facts far outweighed the

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[169] https://bilderbergthemovie.com/

[170] https://www.jfklibrary.org/Research/Research-Aids/JFK-Speeches/American-Newspaper-Publishers-Association_19610427.aspx

> dangers which are cited to justify it. Even today, there is little value in opposing the threat of a closed society by imitating its arbitrary restrictions. Even today, there is little value in insuring the survival of our nation if our traditions do not survive with it. And there is very grave danger that an announced need for increased security will be seized upon by those anxious to expand its meaning to the very limits of official censorship and concealment. That I do not intend to permit to the extent that it is in my control. And no official of my Administration, whether his rank is high or low, civilian or military, should interpret my words here tonight as an excuse to censor the news, to stifle dissent, to cover up our mistakes or to withhold from the press and the public the facts they deserve to know.

Yet, today, hundreds of years of secret world leaders deciding country's fate, we still have this neoliberal system in place. Many don't know it exists, others dismiss it as conspiracy. The truth is it does exist.

From their own, Bilderberg Group[171], website frames what takes place each year. The 2017 participants can be found here.[172] Their topics can be found here.[173]

> Since its inaugural meeting in 1954, Bilderberg has been an annual forum for informal discussions, designed to foster dialogue between Europe and North America. Every year, between 120-150 political leaders and experts from industry, finance, academia and the media are invited to take part in the meeting. About two thirds of the participants come from Europe and the rest from North America; one third from politics and government and the rest from other fields. The meeting is a forum for informal discussions about megatrends and major issues facing the world. The meetings are held under the Chatham House Rule, which states that participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s) nor of any other participant may be revealed. Thanks to the private nature of the meeting, the participants are not bound by the conventions of their office or by pre-agreed positions. As such, they can take time to listen, reflect and gather insights. There is no

[171] http://www.bilderbergmeetings.org/
[172] http://www.bilderbergmeetings.org/participants.html
[173] http://www.bilderbergmeetings.org/conferences.html

detailed agenda, no resolutions are proposed, no votes are taken, and no policy statements are issued.

It can be seen as simple as world leaders meeting to help balance our globalization. Yet, since 1950 the working class has yet to see this fruit. I n fact the working class today is barely surviving. Yet the upper 10% of the world's wealth holders is more than the 90% combined. So you can see the participants do not benefit the working class.

Kennedy's speech[174] further elicits an awareness we need to keep virulent upon.

> It requires a change in outlook, a change in tactics, a change in missions--by the government, by the people, by every businessman or labor leader, and by every newspaper. For we are opposed around the world by a monolithic and ruthless conspiracy that relies primarily on covert means for expanding its sphere of influence--on infiltration instead of invasion, on subversion instead of elections, on intimidation instead of free choice, on guerrillas by night instead of armies by day. It is a system which has conscripted vast human and material resources into the building of a tightly knit, highly efficient machine that combines military, diplomatic, intelligence, economic, scientific and political operations.
>
> Its preparations are concealed, not published. Its mistakes are buried, not headlined. Its dissenters are silenced, not praised. No expenditure is questioned, no rumor is printed, no secret is revealed. It conducts the Cold War, in short, with a war-time discipline no democracy would ever hope or wish to match.

History does repeat itself. I think the time is now for a global awakening of the working class and their rights. It will happen by education and awakening.

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174 https://www.jfklibrary.org/Research/Research-Aids/JFK-Speeches/American-Newspaper-Publishers-Association_19610427.aspx

Chapter 12: Tying It Together

First and foremost, these are my ideas and concepts. I am not trying to invade your philosophy. Rather I'm opening research for you to ponder. Many of the truths written here is not only my research. It also represents over fifty years of research by the article authors and persons I spoke with. I chose to include their words, as it doesn't need rewrote or condensed. Their words are powerful and can stand alone. Much of the research and additional tools at the back, is maybe new to you. But realize we've been dealt corporatist propaganda for centuries. It's time for another worker's rebellion as they did in the early 1900's. Above all else please do your own research.

It amazes me that where we are in history today with our democracy issues. Iis exactly where we were 100 years ago. We can duplicate history by strengthening and growing unions. We need to be aware of what current muckrakers are saying. And we can hold our elected officials accountable. Our worn out American dream can be salvaged. It will take a concentrated effort of awake grassroots activists.

We started at wage inequality. With most working Americans living paycheck to paycheck needs to end. While the working class is in poverty, the corporatists are making over 725% more off the backs of the workers. This needs to stop. Without the working class making a livable wage, all that is left is a worn out American dream.

Next we talked about states. Specifically we looked at how ALEC is invading your rights state by state with offering legislation to state legislators. Corporations fund ALEC and you best believe their interest is themselves. No corporatist considers the working class. Become aware of laws being introduced every year by your legislators. Join other grassroots organization to show strength in numbers protesting such bills.

We moved on to religion. It does not matter if you are Buddhist, Hindu, Christian, Pagan or even an atheist. What matters is not to be part of any system that is oppressive, motivates you with guilt and shame. No oppression is the ideal

here. A truly Marxist thought is a society that is so in balance no religion is necessary. Now if you are religious, that is fine too, Just don't be oppressive with it.

Our current incarceration rate in America puts us 500,000 more persons than any other country in the world. Something is wrong with this picture. Prison reform is necessary for us in moving forward with a more socialist country.

Dismantling the current workplace will lead to working class freedom. The current business model favors the corporatists and not the workers. The current model was placed into society in the 1970's by Milton Freidman. It has been a long forty years to see the devastation it has caused. It has decimated the middle class

The yearly government budget is dwarfed by one department. The military gets the lion's share of our tax payer monies. Just awareness of that shows we are a military based economy. There is so much wrong with this picture.

The corporatists owned and ran media companies disillusion us. They decide how to manipulate society to buy, think, and act. It serves only one purpose. I can guarantee it does not favor the working class at all.

The Federal Reserve is neither. Once you fully understand their incorporation and rule, you'll never support it again. This system is part of the reason for a worn out American dream.

What do these all share in common you may ask. They all are oppressors. Oppressors whose only desire is to weaken and subdue the working class. It's all part of the corporatists grand design. Wake up, seek the truth and help the resistance. It's up to us, the workers to rise up and change the system.

Chapter 13 : Final Push

"… *the young people are the ones who most quickly identify with the struggle and the necessity to eliminate the evil conditions that exist.*" Malcolm X[175], Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers' Power.

History has a way of repeating itself. Our movement against the oppressor has shown many times clusters of persons rising up to overthrow the status quo. During the recent Occupy Movement tens of thousands gathered to bring awareness of wage inequality; removing corporations from the influence of politics and the more balanced distribution of money. Sen. Bernie Sanders impressive campaign run of 2016 garnered 10,000's spectators at each event to hear his message. Much of what he spoke for had been his 30-year message. Grassroots movements are growing exponentially to confront the fascists rise. Now is the time for the individual workers to rise up, History shows it is when individual workers arise change happens.

I worked on the national data team for Sen. Bernie Sanders 2016. We processed all data incoming from events and rallies. We witnessed the numbers that his message resonated with. It was about US, the people uniting under a goal. There were 100,000's of persons a massing. Sanders fully knows how rigged our economy is. "(Milton) Friedman's ideology caused enormous damage to the American middle class and to working families here and around the world" (Age of InEquality, The Failed Prophet, page 45, Verso Books 2017, New York, USA.) "My colleagues in the Senate and I are picking up the pieces of the banking system brought to the edge of collapse by this theory of deregulation and by the insatiable greed of a small number of wealthy financiers …" In Oklahoma, during our recent legislative session, the Republicans chose to cave in for the fossil fuel industry. In our cash strapped state, the people were wanting a 7% gross production tax on the oil and gas industry to fund our state budget. However, the Republican dominated legislators chose not to listen to the citizens. They voted to show preferential favor to the fossil fuel industry.

[175] http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/17435.Malcolm_X

As it turned out over half a million dollars were contributed to these legislators by this industry.[176]

History follows that in the early 1900's the rampant legislative abuses were brought to light by the muckrakers. Modern times manifest through The Young Turks, Monthly Review, Democracy Now, Peoples World, The Nation, and others are the modern day muckrakers. The masses need to to get behind the progressive leftist news for the truth. Mainstream media, the 6 conglomerates who own 90% of all.media is biased.[177] Choosing to get the full and right truth one must leave corporate media outlets and embrace the leftist progressive news outlets.

In the past forty years, global inequality has risen alarmingly. "With respect to the forces responsible for inequality around the world, the one that stands out is the inability of working people and peasants to mount credible resistance."[178] "In recent years new protest movements have broken out around the world, all of them arguably rooted in burgeoning inequality or the structures that cause it." Here Yates echoes my thoughts and those of the communist party. It is the workers who must rise up. It's when the 99% awakens that their numbers are larger than the 1%. History again is at the moment when the masses revolt against the rigged tyrannical systems. During a late night legislators budget hearing, lots of Occupy and Our Revolution protesters showed up at the Oklahoma Capitol.[179] Even though the meeting of the legislators was late at night, the protesters made their presence known. At one point their presence caused the legislative chambers to be locked down. The already taxed citizens were also being faced with a sin tax on cigarettes to help fund the

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[176] http://oklahomawatch.org/2017/05/23/oil-and-gas-donations-to-legislators/

[177] http://www.businessinsider.com/these-6-corporations-control-90-of-the-media-in-america-2012-6

[178] Measuring Global Inequality, Michael D. Yates, Monthly Review November 2016, Vol. 68 No. 6. https://monthlyreview.org/2016/11/01/measuring-global-inequality/

[179] http://kfor.com/2017/05/23/gas-and-oil-production-tax-bill-advances-out-of-committee-after-late-night-meeting/

budget deficit. Two tobacco companies sued Oklahoma over this proposed tax affecting the burdened poor.[180]

Recent Union activity within the Industrial Workers of the World, shows that people are fighting back. From Starbucks to Burgerville, and Stardust singers on Broadway[181], IWW has been a tool for individuals to fight back. Even within IWW is the Incarcerated Workers Organizing Committee last fall successfully helped stage strikes behind prison walls regarding prisoner work reform. This gained international media coverage. From these examples, Occupy, Our Revolution, IWW, IWOC, have shown people are stepping up to resist. New muckrakers have sprung up to report the truth.

The Communist Party has always been at their base supporters of workers rights and Unions. Time and history show that trying to reform the current two-party system is futile. The Communist party and workers rising up now will bring the changes of the rigged system to a halt. It takes people waking up. Stand up and resist, the time is now. Join in with other leftist grassroots organizations to stop fascists. Defeating the fascist stronghold demands that we unite together with other leftist groups to show a strong solidarity while still building a strong communist party. Let thus today reflect upon history that this moment now is when the workers stood up to resist.

[180] http://newsok.com/article/5552071
[181] https://www.iww.org/history/campaigns

Notes

Chapter 2 Wage Inequality Further Research Links

https://www.dissentmagazine.org/online_articles/our-inequality-an-introduction

https://www.dissentmagazine.org/tag/our-inequality

https://www.dissentmagazine.org/article/whos-in-charge-here

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https://www.thenation.com/article/the-egalitarians/

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http://www.yesmagazine.org/issues/stand-up-to-corporate-power/common-knowledge

http://www.yesmagazine.org/issues/50-solutions/a-healthier-democracy-starts-right-where-you-live-20161213

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http://inthesetimes.com/article/11937/corporations_are_not_people

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http://inthesetimes.com/features/bernie-sanders-corporate-media-threatens-our-democracy.html

http://inthesetimes.com/article/11937/corporations_are_not_people

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http://inthesetimes.com/article/2065/five_ways_to_combat_conservative_media

http://www.washingtonsblog.com/2016/05/6-giant-corporations-control-the-media-and-americans-consume-10-hours-of-programming-a-day.html

http://www.pbs.org/independentlens/democracyondeadline/mediaownership.html

http://www.thenation.com/article/comcastnbc-merger-takes-media-consolidation-next-level/

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http://www.thenation.com/article/media/

http://www.thenation.com/article/stop-big-media-again/

http://www.thenation.com/article/free-media/

Chapter 10: Give Me That Money Further Research

http://www.investopedia.com/articles/economics/08/federal-reserve.asp

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=InWQxohkks8&list=PLoWbiBZsa2vJ_xxAGkQT9IRnIok24xSPk

Hidden Secrets of Money - You Tube

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DyV0OfU3-FU&list=PLE88E9ICdipidHkTehs1VbFzgwrq1jkUJ

New Politics magazine

http://newpol.org/content/debt-underemployment-and-capitalism

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In These Times magazine

http://inthesetimes.com/article/20025/a-better-way-to-rebuild-the-nations-infrastructure-trump-federal-reserve

http://inthesetimes.com/features/native-land-plunder-bureau-of-indian-affairs.html

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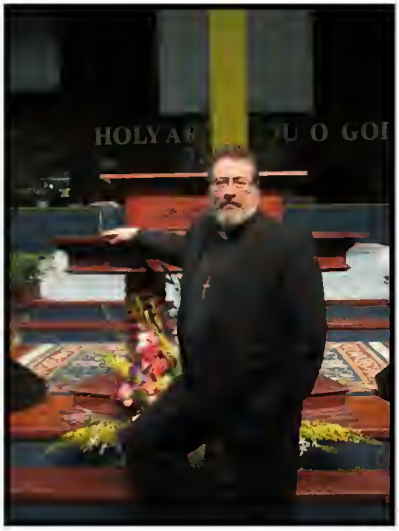
Author Bio



MARK MAXEY is an Oklahoman, a Yuchi Indian, enrolled in the Muscogee Nation, studied radio/TV/film in college. Maxey is an IWW member, Communications, Computer, and Software Workers Industrial Union 560. He's worked as an administrative assistant, petroleum landman, barista, staff writer, paralegal, content producer and graphic designer. He spent 6 months as a National Data Team volunteer for the Bernie Sanders for President campaign. He is a freelance journalist with the progressive paper, **People's World**. He is also an ordained deacon in the Eastern Orthodox tradition with Apostolic Succession.

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Afterwards

from:
http://www.cpusa.org/article/national-party-building-conference-call-to-action/

It's party building time!

Our country is in the midst of one of the most important moments in its history. A mass democratic movement has arisen to challenge the Trump administration and its Wall Street and Chamber of Commerce backers.

In response to Trump's war mongering and his attacks on workers, immigrants, people of color, women, Muslims, LGBTQ people, the press, the environment, and health care, people are rising up and challenging the administration at every turn.

After Trump gave comfort to fascist and KKK thugs in Charlottesville, people from all walks of life organized, demonstrated, held vigils, and signed petitions demanding that the white supremacists be pushed back.

Coalitions are forming in neighborhoods, on campuses, and in cities and towns all across the country demanding Trump's impeachment, supporting the vigorous conduct of Congressional investigations, and an end to the extreme right provocations.

Important victories have already been won, most recently in defeating the attempt to repeal Obamacare, but the fight is far from over.

For the struggle to succeed, the labor movement and the working class in general must play a leading role.

In this fight, our class and people are drawing conclusions about the nature of the crisis, its systemic roots and what it will take to address it. Socialist solutions are becoming ever more popular, as is interest in the Communist Party.

More and more, our working class and people are looking to the Communist Party for revolutionary solutions to today's challenges, including the burdens of stagnant wages, unpayable student debt, police murder, and global warming as well as growing racism, sexism and homophobia.

Indeed, it will take a fighting working-class revolutionary party to tackle these issues both in the immediate day-to-day battles for survival and in the longer-term fight for socialism.

In this fight, the party is indispensable; it brings to the class and democratic battles an understanding of the need for working-class leadership. It brings an understanding of the need for broad and flexible tactics. It brings an understanding of the all-important requirement of unity. Its leadership must be won in the workplace, in the classrooms, and in the neighborhoods. Its leadership must be won defending and advancing our class and people's interests on the issues that matter: peace; jobs; healthcare; housing; a safe environment and the right to live in a country free of racist, sexist, and anti-gay bigotry.

It will take a fighting party armed with the most advanced ideas of Marx and Lenin, utilizing every possible means of organizing, to lead and win the working-class majority to defeat the right and neo-fascist forces and win the battle for democracy.

http://www.cpusa.org/article/national-party-building-conference-call-to-action/

The Incarcerated Workers Organizing Committee (IWOC), are a prisoner-led section of the Industrial Workers of the World. We struggle to end prison slavery along with allies and supporters on the outside. On September 9, 2016 we were part of a coalition of inside and outside groups that launched the largest prison strike in US history. Resistance to prison slavery continues with work stoppages, hunger strikes and other acts of resistance to business as usual.

But it will take a mass movement - inside and out - to abolish prison slavery. We now have branches in over 15 prisons and our membership continues to grow. We invite all those who agree with our statement of purpose to join us and to start a local branch in their prison, city, or trailer park. IWW membership is free to those incarcerated, and is based on income for those on the outside. We ask supporters to sponsor a prisoner's membership for just $5 a month.

https://incarceratedworkers.org/about